REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
on the work of its thirtieth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 16 (A/45/16)

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Part One

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTIETH SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters
from 7 May to 11 June 1990

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form on 20 June 1990 under the symbol A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 2 April 1990 and its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 May to 11 June. It held 58 meetings (2nd to 59th meetings).

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirtieth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 1/ decided to consider at its thirtieth session the following report of the Joint Inspection Unit: concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/44/486 and Add.1).

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski (Poland)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ado Vaher (Canada)
Mr. Jorge Duhalt (Mexico)
Miss Fauzia Mufti Abbas (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Benin
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
India
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Pakistan
Poland
Romania
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia	Indonesia
Belgium	Ireland
Bolivia	Italy
Brazil	Jamaica
Chile	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Costa Rica	Malaysia
Ecuador	Netherlands
Egypt	Norway
Ethiopia	Peru
Finland	Portugal
German Democratic Republic	Spain
Greece	Thailand
Grenada	Tunisia
Hungary	United Republic of Tanzania

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

World Bank

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Atomic Energy Agency

8. The following intergovernmental organization was represented:

Commission of the European Communities

9. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budgeting and Finance, the Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Under-Secretary-General of the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and his representatives, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and his representatives, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information and her representatives, the Director-General, Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and Co-ordinator of all United Nations Drug Control-Related Activities, and representatives of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Economic Commission for Europe (FCE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Representatives of the United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Centre for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT) also attended the session. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Saleh E. Ibrahim, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

10. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirtieth session is contained in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

11. At its 51st to 59th meetings, on 7 to 11 June 1990, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its thirtieth session (E/AC.51/1990/L.3 and Add.1-53), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

12. At its 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th and 21st meetings, on 16 to 18 and 21 and 22 May, the Committee considered the analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/45/226).

Conclusions and recommendations

13. With respect to the methodology followed by the Secretary-General in preparing the analytical report, the Committee noted that the report did not adhere strictly to the provisions of paragraph 28 of the Committee's report on its twenty-ninth session. The Committee concluded, however, that by following the structure of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 2/ it provided updated information on the status of implementation of the specific recommendations of the Group.

14. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's report, in general, provided a useful account of action taken to implement General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and of the areas in which further action was required.

15. The Committee expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in many areas where reform was called for in resolution 41/213, as a result of the joint efforts of Member States, the Secretary-General and the staff of the Organization.

16. While noting areas in which progress had been limited or not possible, *inter alia*, in the economic and social sectors, the Committee concurred with the Secretary-General that the Organization had, in a number of areas, fulfilled the mandate for reform to the best of its abilities. The Committee also concurred that the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization was a continuing process and that the Organization should enter a stage of consolidation in order to strengthen its capacity to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

17. The Committee noted that, as indicated during its discussion of the programme performance report, the indices contained therein did not lend themselves easily to an overall assessment of the real impact of the implementation of recommendation 15 on programmes.

18. The Committee agreed that the relationship between posts and programmes funded from the regular budget and those funded from extrabudgetary resources required further analysis and consideration.

19. The Committee emphasized the need for continuing action in certain areas, as follows:

(a) Political sector: the Committee requested the Secretary-General to consolidate the results achieved in the restructuring of the political sector.

(b) Personnel questions and posts: the Committee, while recalling the recommendations concerning questions of personnel and posts of the Group of

High-level Intergovernmental Experts, as approved by the General Assembly, stressed the need for further efforts to achieve the relevant objectives of resolution 41/213 and all subsequent relevant resolutions.

(c) Conference services: while noting many positive improvements in the area of conference services, the Committee expressed the view that further progress required full co-operation on the part of Member States and the Secretariat and recognized the important role of the Committee on Conferences in that regard, which should be exercised in accordance with resolution 43/222 of 21 December 1988. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the Committee on Conferences to develop further guidelines for its consideration with a view to reducing the volume of documentation, including that circulated by Member States.

(d) Economic and social sectors: the Committee expressed the hope that the improvement in the global political climate might extend into co-operation in the economic and social spheres, thereby contributing to the necessary restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 44/103 of 11 December 1989 and 44/200, and as indicated in paragraph 67 of the analytical report of the Secretary-General. The Committee reiterated its view that any measures to be proposed by the Secretary-General in that area should be reviewed by the Committee in order to examine their effect on programmes.

(e) Construction: the Committee reiterated its view that the Secretary-General should adhere closely to the schedule outlined in his report on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-third session (A/C.5/43/16).

(f) Co-ordination: while reiterating the views expressed at its twenty-ninth session, the Committee emphasized the importance of co-ordination as a policy instrument in improving the performance of the organizations of the system, ensuring complementarity of effort and increasing cost-effectiveness.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to highlight systematically, in the existing reporting mechanisms pertaining to the above areas, or, as necessary, through a specific report, the progress achieved.

21. The Committee noted that, despite the many difficulties encountered, the role of the Organization as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations had been enhanced during the period under review. The Committee concurred with the view expressed by the Secretary-General that Governments of Member States were increasingly seeking the assistance of the United Nations.

22. The Committee noted that, despite the additional tasks entrusted to the United Nations, financial uncertainty had continued. In that regard, the Committee stressed the essential need for all Member States to respect their legal obligations concerning full and timely payments of assessed contributions.

23. The Committee observed that in order to achieve the objectives of Member States, as reflected in the programmes of the United Nations, the financial viability of the Organization was required. To that end, not only timely and full payment of assessed contributions, but also proportionality between resources and programmes, an appropriate relationship between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, careful determination of priorities and constant vigilance in securing the highest possible standards of effectiveness were also required.

24. The Committee recognized that the operation of the new budgetary process had resulted in the adoption by consensus of the outline and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee recalled, also, that the new budgetary process was still in a developmental stage and that several methodological issues were still pending. The Committee likewise recalled that the decision-making process was governed by the provisions of the Charter and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

25. The Committee recognized that the Organization had entered a new era in which, as never before, both Member States and the Secretariat would be challenged to develop new visions and attitudes.

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Conclusions and recommendations

26. The Committee reiterated the importance Member States attached to the medium-term plan and recalled, in that context, regulation 3.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, which states that, after adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations.

27. The Committee noted that the preparation of the medium-term plan was guided by the new planning and budgeting process laid down in General Assembly resolution 41/213 and subsequent relevant resolutions and, in that context, particularly welcomed the consultations with functional, sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies throughout the process. The Committee also noted, however, that a number of proposed programmes had not been reviewed.

28. The Committee noted the proposed new structure of the medium-term plan, particularly the efforts to improve its structure. It considered that further progress could be made in future plans and in revisions to the plan, notably in the definition of sectors of activity and presentation of activities being conducted in each sector.

29. The Committee recalled that the preparation of the medium-term plan was guided by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and recommended that further efforts be made towards closer adherence to those regulations and rules, particularly for the revisions of the medium-term plan.

30. The Committee felt that the objectives of many subprogrammes should be stated with greater clarity and precision. That would facilitate the evaluation of those subprogrammes. The distinction between objectives of Member States and objectives of the Secretariat should also be more precise, in terms of the respective roles of the Member States and the Secretariat. Strategies and courses of action of the Secretariat should also be clearly spelt out.

31. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to propose priorities among the subprogrammes of most programmes of the medium-term plan.

32. The Committee noted, however, that a number of programmes, particularly in the political sector, did not include proposals for priority among subprogrammes and decided to revert to the question at its September session on the basis of further information to be provided by the Secretary-General in the context of its consideration of the overall question of priority-setting.

33. The Committee noted the inconsistency in the priority designations of the various subprogrammes. The Committee recommended that the term "high priority" should be used throughout the medium-term plan whenever reference was made to "priority" or "highest priority".

34. The Committee expressed the need for greater consistency in the analysis of trade policies in relevant programmes.

35. The Committee recommended that the two "low priority" designations in the medium-term plan should be deleted.

36. The Committee noted that a clear identification of new activities, stipulated in regulation 3.2, had not always been achieved in the proposed medium-term plan. The Committee also noted that while the medium-term plan would be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes (regulation 3.2), new activities that might be proposed by the Secretary-General in fulfilment of the general objectives of the Organization would be given a legislative mandate by the adoption of the medium-term plan by the General Assembly (rule 103.2 (d)).

37. The Committee noted the absence of an indicative estimate of the necessary resources in the proposed medium-term plan as envisaged in regulation 3.3. In that regard, the Committee took note of the informal additional information provided by the Secretariat during its consideration of the proposed medium-term plan.

38. The Committee stressed the importance of the revisions to the medium-term plan, the first to be undertaken in 1992. Several programmes would have to be thoroughly revised in the light, inter alia, of resolutions and decisions to be taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly before the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 came into effect.

39. The Committee recommended that decisions and resolutions adopted recently by the General Assembly, particularly during its sixteenth, seventh and eighteenth special sessions, be fully reflected in the proposed medium-term plan.

40. It further recommended that cross references should be indicated in subprogrammes, as appropriate, to relevant activities of the plan.

41. The Committee welcomed the intention of the Secretariat to present the medium-term plan in a new format, which would entail the reissuance of the document in its entirety after each biennial revision.

42. The Committee expressed its concern over the persistent late issuance of documentation and the difficulties thus created during the discussions.

43. The Committee reiterated the importance of compliance with the existing rules governing the issuance of documentation.

Introduction

44. The proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6) was introduced by the Secretary-General to the Committee at its 22nd meeting, on 22 May.

45. At its 23rd to 44th meetings, on 23 to 26 and 29 to 31 May and 1, 2 and 4 June, the Committee considered the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Introduction)).

46. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for personally introducing the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The Committee regarded it as a demonstration of the importance he attached to the plan.

47. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with regulation 3.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the introduction to the medium-term plan constituted a key integral element in the planning process.

Discussion

48. Several delegations felt that the introduction was a well-written, balanced and intellectually challenging document, which outlined in a comprehensive manner the tasks facing the Organization in the years ahead. Other delegations, however, thought that the document was too descriptive, without providing a clear road-map for the plan period.

49. Other delegations emphasized that, when it came to presenting the problems of the global context or situation in all their complexity and diversity, reviewing mandates, making pertinent, in-depth, clear and coherent analyses, identifying overall trends as they derived from the mandates of deliberative organs and reflected overall priorities, and defining responsibilities in order to assist overall co-ordination, the introduction fell far short of the requirements of the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning.

50. A number of delegations agreed with the assessment of the Secretary-General that the world now stood in a new seminal period with many challenges and opportunities for the United Nations in the years to come.

51. Several delegations concurred with the designation by the Secretary-General of peace-making and peace-keeping activities, and enhancement of human well-being as overall priorities. They stressed the need for greater specificity in the designation of priorities, especially in the economic and social fields, and called for closer observance of the programme planning regulations and rules regarding priority-setting. Other delegations questioned the use of the term peace-making since there was no legislative mandate for that.

52. Several delegations welcomed the emphasis placed on the maintenance of international peace and security, and stressed, in that context, the importance of the Secretary-General increasingly extending his good offices. The need to avoid conflicts was also stressed.

53. Some delegations concurred with the view of the Secretary-General that disarmament, being essential to the process of strengthening international security, would be a dominant challenge of the 1990s and that the major transformation in international relations that had taken place recently presented a valuable opportunity to forge a new spirit of co-operation in achieving security at significantly lower levels of armed forces and armaments through disarmament. Other delegations, while welcoming the prospect of further progress in the area of disarmament, noted that it would not necessarily imply an increase in the level of activity undertaken by the United Nations.

54. Some delegations thought that the introduction should have given greater emphasis to the elimination of apartheid and to the inalienable rights of the

Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of their own State.

55. Some delegations concurred with the significance of the efforts of the Organization in further codification of international law. Some delegations expressed reservations about the elaboration of non-binding declarations.

56. Some delegations expressed reservations about the role of the United Nations in facilitating the conversion from military to civilian production, as stated in paragraph 14 of the introduction, and thought that such conversion should be left to market forces.

57. A number of delegations emphasized the crucial importance they attached to the activities of the United Nations in the area of economic and social development and were of the view that, relative to other fields of activities, the introduction did not give sufficient weight to that area.

58. Several delegations noted that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session in resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, mentioned in paragraph 18 of the introduction, should be a major guiding force in the economic and social fields during the plan period.

59. A number of delegations felt that the problems of Africa had not been given sufficient attention in the introduction to the medium-term plan.

60. Several delegations supported the emphasis placed on the environment. Other delegations considered that the various aspects of the relationship between environment and development should have been brought into sharper focus, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989.

61. Some delegations thought that the enjoyment of human rights referred, above all else, to individual rights and therefore that the reference to "peoples of the world" in paragraph 31 of the introduction should be changed to "people of the world". Other delegations, however, felt that the broad areas of economic, political and civil rights were as important as individual rights.

62. Some delegations emphasized that the guidance for the activities of the United Nations in the area of human rights stemmed from the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

63. Some delegations felt that reference to the debt problem in paragraph 22 did not properly reflect the recent developments in the United Nations. Other delegations agreed with the idea expressed in the paragraph on the issue of external debt.

64. Several delegations welcomed the stress placed by the Secretary-General on the efforts against the illicit use and traffic of narcotic drugs.

65. A number of delegations concurred with the view of the Secretary-General that the payment of contributions in full and on time to the regular and peace-keeping budgets of the Organization, in fulfilment of legally binding obligations, was of critical importance for the full implementation of the programmes and activities envisaged in the medium-term plan.

66. Some delegations agreed with the exposition of priorities in paragraph 39 of the introduction. Others felt that all priorities proposed in the medium-term plan should have been reflected in the paragraph.

General considerations

67. The Committee took note of the introduction to the medium-term plan.

Programme 1. Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

68. At its 46th meeting, on 5 June, the Committee considered programme 1, Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 1)).

Discussion

69. Some delegations felt that references to co-operation and co-ordination in the overall strategy for the programme should have been more extensive and, in that context, expressed concern that appropriate co-ordination with the Department of Public Information be maintained in the implementation of subprogramme 3.

70. Some delegations suggested that highest priority should be assigned to subprogrammes 1 and 2. Other delegations emphasized the importance of subprogramme 3.

71. A number of delegations questioned the concept and mandate for peace-making and how it related to the other elements of the programme, namely, good offices, peace-keeping and research and the collection of information. In that context, they noted the related exposition in paragraph 6 of the introduction to the proposed plan. Other delegations emphasized the need for the strictest respect for the mandates of the peace-keeping operations deriving from resolutions of the Security Council.

72. With regard to peace-keeping operations, some delegations emphasized the paramount role of the Security Council. A number of other delegations, however, felt that legislative authority for subprogramme 2, cited in paragraph 1.11, should have been drawn more widely to include related action by the General Assembly, including action taken at its forty-fourth session in response to recommendations of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

73. A number of delegations felt that the exposition of principles underlying peace-keeping operations in paragraph 1.12 should have been fuller, including reference to the need for the consent of parties to a conflict. Other delegations, however, felt that the text of paragraph 1.12 should not be changed. Other delegations again felt that the text of paragraph 1.12 should not be changed and emphasized that no change in the mandate, character and duration of a peace-keeping operation as authorized by the Security Council should be made without a specific decision of the Council. The importance of geographical balance was emphasized.

74. Several delegations expressed concern at the possibility that the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations referred to in paragraph 1.15 of the report could give rise to possible duplication or overlapping with other structures in the Secretariat. They noted the assurances provided by the Secretariat that the Group was basically a task force, which did not duplicate the functions of the different line departments involved in those operations, nor undermine the direct responsibility and accountability of those departments, being basically an advisory group to the Secretary-General.

75. Other delegations emphasized the importance of peace-keeping operations and expressed concern that their effective implementation should not be impeded by retrenchment and economy measures. The Committee noted that the need for a capacity to organize and manage peace-keeping operations, as set out in subprogramme 2, was not dependent upon the continuation of specific operations.

76. While fully accepting the mandate of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information under General Assembly resolution 44/164 of 15 December 1989, some delegations questioned the inclusion of a humanitarian mandate of that nature under programme 1, rather than under programme 36. They noted that, regardless of their nature, all activities of the Office had been included under the programme. Some delegations felt that other Secretariat units should be encouraged to support the Office in the implementation of its work programme.

77. One delegation suggested that Member States might be added to paragraph 1.20 (b) as a source of information. Another delegation emphasized that information gathering under subprogramme 3 should not infringe on the sovereignty of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

78. The Committee welcomed inclusion of activities programmed under programme 1 in the proposed plan and emphasized their central importance in the work of the Organization.

79. The Committee emphasized the need for cost-effectiveness in the conduct of peace-keeping operations and the need to keep such operations under constant review, without prejudice to the operational effectiveness of the operations in accordance with the relevant mandates of the Security Council.

80. The Committee emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication in carrying out the activities outlined in paragraph 1.20 (d).

81. The Committee recommended approval of programme 1 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and on the understanding that further clarifications on the concept of peace-making would be provided by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

Programme 2. Political and Security Council affairs

82. At its 23rd and 24th meetings, on 23 May, the Committee considered programme 2, Political and Security Council affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 2)).

Discussion

83. Some delegations felt that mention of General Assembly resolution 41/12 should be deleted from paragraph 2.12.

84. Other delegations felt that modalities might usefully have been found for consulting the Security Council on the text of the programme.

85. It was noted that reference should have been made to the contribution of other departments and offices under subprogramme 1 in addition to the references to co-ordination in paragraph 2.5.

86. Some delegations felt that the final sentence of paragraph 2.9 should be revised to read:

> "Those developments have also contributed to an expansion in the size and complexity of the political agenda facing the General Assembly, making the task of rationalizing and streamlining the work under this subprogramme more urgent."

87. Other delegations proposed the formulation of the final sentence of paragraph 2.9 as made in programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

88. The Committee recommended approval of programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the following recommendation: the Committee stressed that every effort should be made to assign a high priority to the subprogramme in the programme in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning.

Programme 3. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

89. At its 24th meeting, on 23 May, the Committee considered programme 3, Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 3)).

Discussion

90. A number of delegations noted in paragraph 3.7 that the responsibilities of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services with respect to co-ordination of relations with

non-governmental organizations also extended to those in the economic and social sectors. The reference made to Article 71 of the Charter on the nature of his responsibilities was of a formal and co-ordinating nature and did not relate to the substance of the work of such non-governmental organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

91. The Committee recommended approval of programme 3 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: Paragraph 3.17. The first sentence should read "In addition, the work of the General Assembly is on occasion extending beyond its regular 13-week session."

Programme 4. Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization

92. At its 25th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered programme 4, Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 4)).

Discussion

93. Several delegations expressed the view that, in order to introduce clarity, subprogramme 1 should be subdivided into two subprogrammes entitled "Special political questions" and "Regional co-operation". The programme would then contain three subprogrammes, with subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, becoming subprogramme 3. Other delegations, however, felt that the presentation of the programme may be acceptable and that such a change would not be appropriate.

94. The view was expressed that the text on the objectives of the two subprogrammes was not a clear statement that could facilitate the evaluation exercise in due course.

95. A number of delegations felt that high priority should have been accorded to the programme as a whole.

96. Several delegations expressed concern that adequate resources should be made available for the activities of the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

97. The Committee recommended approval of programme 4 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 4.2 (b). The word "all" should be deleted from the paragraph and "dependent" should be replaced by "non-self-governing".

(b) Paragraph 4.25 (c) should read:

"Promoting the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the

18 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for which the objective is to promote decolonization within the framework of the international Trusteeship System as set out in the Charter and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

(c) Paragraph 4.27. The first sentence of paragraph 4.27 should read:

"The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all Territories that have not yet exercised their rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

Programme 5. Question of Palestine

98. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 24 May, the Committee considered programme 5, Question of Palestine, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 5)).

Discussion

99. A number of delegations emphasized the high priority that should be attached to the programme and felt that specific reference to the question of Palestine should have been included in the introduction to the proposed plan.

100. While welcoming the elevation of activities in the area to the programme level in the proposed plan, some delegations felt that the content of the programme was weak. In that context, it was suggested that an expansion of activities to such questions as instruments for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories should be considered for inclusion in future revisions to the plan.

101. Some delegations questioned the proposed continuation of activities that had proved ineffective in promoting a just and peaceful settlement of the question and that were one-sided in their application. It was suggested by one delegation that resources applied to those activities might more usefully be redeployed to UNRWA or the Centre for Human Rights.

Reservation

102. One delegation noted that the activities contained in the programme were similar to those undertaken by the United Nations in the past and believed they would not contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East situation.

Conclusions and recommendations

103. The Committee agreed on the importance of the question of Palestine and of achieving a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, and acknowledged the relevance of programmes 1 and 2 to programme 5.

104. The Committee recommended approval of programme 5 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: Paragraph 5.12. The second sentence should read:

> "In this context, it will seek, in full co-operation with other relevant Secretariat units, to disseminate information on the situation of the Palestinian people and of proposals to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in order to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and independence."

Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid

105. At its 27th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee considered programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 6)).

Discussion

106. Several delegations expressed the view that adequate financial and human resources should be provided to the programme in order to reflect its importance. Some delegations stressed the human rights aspects of the programme and noted that it had not sufficiently taken into account recent developments in South Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

107. The Committee expressed general satisfaction with the improvement in the content and format of the programme.

108. The Committee recalled the decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/27 of 22 November 1989 and S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa. It was stressed that total eradication of apartheid should continue to be of paramount importance to the United Nations.

109. The Committee recommended approval of programme 6 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 6.11. The word "exclusively" should be deleted from the first sentence.

(b) Paragraph 6.27 (a). Add the following phrase at the end of the subparagraph "and contributing to radio programmes".

(c) Subprogramme 1, Promotion and co-ordination of international action against apartheid, should be accorded high priority.

Programme 7. Disarmament

110. At its 27th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee considered programme 7, Disarmament, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 7)).

Discussion

111. A number of delegations expressed support for the programme and felt that flexibility should be applied when necessary in adapting the plan to changing situations and developments.

112. Several delegations felt that more emphasis should be given in the narrative to the relationship between disarmament and development, including a reference to the concept of "peace dividend". Other delegations saw no need to make such a reference.

113. Several delegations agreed with the proposed subprogramme structure. Others felt that a separate subprogramme covering activities related to disarmament and development issues would be desirable.

114. Some delegations felt that, with regard to the penultimate sentence in paragraph 7.5, the reference to "the ever-rising number of nuclear warheads and delivery systems" should precede the reference to "increasing arms transfer".

115. Some delegations felt that the references to arms transfers in paragraphs 7.5 and 7.8 should be deleted, given the absence of a mandate to that effect.

116. Some delegations also felt that, for the same reason, reference to the proliferation of ballistic missiles should be deleted from paragraph 7.8.

117. Some delegations felt that the regional centres for peace and disarmament should not be used as forums for the development of disarmament strategies. Other delegations were of the view that the regional centres for peace and disarmament should contribute to the development of disarmament strategies.

118. Some delegations were of the view that, with regard to the penultimate sentence of paragraph 7.8, reference to "regional disarmament" should follow the words "such as".

Conclusions and recommendations

119. The Committee stressed the important role assigned to the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament and expressed the view that those centres should be adequately supported. The Committee also felt that, in accordance with their respective mandates, the regional centres should pursue their activities on disarmament issues, as appropriate.

120. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 7 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 7.8. The phrase "will continue to promote nuclear-free zones" in the fourth sentence should be replaced by "would continue to promote nuclear-weapon-free zones".

(b) Paragraph 7.21. The paragraph should read:

"Among the many tasks entrusted to the programme, high priority will be allocated to subprogrammes 1, Deliberation and negotiation, and 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowship, training and advisory services."

(c) Paragraph 7.34 (a). The words "accurate, objective, topical and useful" should be deleted.

(d) Paragraph 7.52 (b). In the last sentence of the subparagraph delete the words "the regional impact of the limitation of international arms transfers", as the Committee was of the view that paragraph 7.52 (b) might be adjusted in the light of consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session of the study of the group of experts on international arms transfer.

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

121. At its 28th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee considered programme 8, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 8)).

Discussion

122. While some delegations felt that aspects of the objectives and course of action for the programme appeared to be outside the mandates provided by the General Assembly, others expressed satisfaction with the programme text and felt that it reflected all existing mandates.

123. Some delegations felt that the structure of the programme would have been clearer if it had been broken down into two or three subprogrammes, while others felt that, in view of the interdisciplinary activities in the programme, one subprogramme was sufficient.

124. It was also felt that the general orientation of the programme failed to outline adequately the specific problems to be tackled and that the proposed strategy did not identify alternative approaches and measures to solve the problems faced.

125. It was also felt that the list of issues in paragraph 8.10 should be more fully in conformity with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989 and that the following additional elements, included in paragraph 8.10 but not in the resolution, should be deleted:

(a) Paragraph 8.10 (a)

"strengthening international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space as an effective way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes"

(b) Paragraph 8.10 (c)

"including the expansion and orientation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications".

Some delegations felt that reference to earlier General Assembly resolutions, such as resolutions 42/68 and 43/56, among the mandates cited, would obviate the need for such deletions. They also felt that paragraph 24 of resolution 44/46 constituted the requisite mandate for such inclusion.

Conclusions and recommendations

126. The Committee recommended approval of programme 8 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 8.7. The last sentence should read "Consequently, no priorities can be assigned between subprogrammes."

(b) Paragraph 8.8. Replace the paragraph by the following text:

"The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in General Assembly resolutions 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 2130 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 3235 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 42/68 of 2 December 1987, 43/56 of 6 December 1988 and 44/46 of 8 December 1989."

(c) Paragraph 8.9. The second sentence should read:

"A clearly agreed framework of international legal principles covering the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space would help to promote international co-operation in this field."

(d) Paragraph 8.11 (a). Delete "priority" in the penultimate line.

(e) Paragraph 8.15 should read:

"In its resolution 44/46, the General Assembly recommended that more attention should be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed designation of 1992 as International Space Year and its use as a vehicle for promotion of international co-operation, which should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. A major focus of the activities of International Space Year will be the use of space technology for monitoring the global environment, under the title 'Mission to Planet Earth'. These activities will be co-ordinated with, and will not duplicate, the separate activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also planned for 1992. Activities in support of International Space Year in 1990-1991 should culminate in 1992 and it may be anticipated that follow-up activities will be mandated during the plan period."

Programme 9. International law

127. At its 40th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 9, International law, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 9)).

Discussion

128. During the discussion several delegations stressed the importance they attached to the activities carried out under the programme.

129. Some delegations expressed the view that the distinction between the activities covered under subprogramme 1 and subprogramme 4 was not entirely clear. While all delegations supported the designation of subprogramme 1 as being of the highest priority, it was proposed that subprogramme 5 should also be given high priority.

130. A number of delegations noted the recruitment and other difficulties that had hampered the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series and stressed that those difficulties should be addressed without delay.

Conclusions and recommendations

131. The Committee was of the view that in paragraph 9.39 the reference to the item concerning the establishment of an international criminal court with jurisdiction over transnational criminal activities as an issue, the consideration of which would extend beyond 1992, was based on an assessment of the situation by the Secretariat rather than on a specific mandate.

132. The Committee recommended approval of programme 9 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusion and with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 9.19. The word "will" in the last sentence should be replaced by "may".

(b) Paragraphs 9.27 and 9.30. The phrase "and so on" should be deleted from the first and third sentences respectively.

(c) Paragraph 9.38. The phrase at the end of the first sentence "and because of the ever greater importance that States attach to the process of the continuing adaptation of international law to the requirements of international life" should be deleted.

(d) Paragraph 9.39. The phrase "and dumping of toxic waste" should be inserted in the last sentence after "drugs".

Programme 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

133. At its 29th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee considered programme 10, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 10)).

Discussion

134. A number of delegations expressed their support for the activities under the programme and stressed their importance for developing countries.

135. Some delegations expressed the view that efforts to ensure universal acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea should be actively pursued during the medium-term plan period.

136. Several delegations felt that the work of the Preparatory Commission should be strengthened and that subprogramme 4 should therefore receive high priority.

137. One delegation expressed the view that the competence of the Secretariat vis-à-vis the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, mentioned in paragraph 10.58 of the programme, was subject to the future relationship agreement and that mention should be made of the fact that the Tribunal should become an independent institution of international justice.

Reservations

138. One delegation believed that activities related to the Preparatory Commission of the Sea-Bed Authority should neither be included in the plan nor be financed from the United Nations regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

139. The Committee recommended approval of programme 10 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 10.18. The word "high" should be inserted before "priority".

(b) Paragraph 10.35. The penultimate sentence should read:

"Most States, especially developing States, are addressing the problems of formulating a cohesive marine policy."

(c) Paragraph 10.66. The phrase ", in conformity with the Convention," should be inserted after "Secretary-General".

Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

140. At its 47th, 48th and 59th meetings, on 6 and 11 June, the Committee considered programme 11, Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 11)).

Discussion

141. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme structure was redundant and repetitious.

142. A number of delegations observed that, while the programme was well oriented on a general level, the catalytic role that General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 entrusted to the Director-General was not reflected in it.

143. Those delegations emphasized that, in view of the current favourable international political climate, the Director-General should try to identify new initiatives for helping relaunch the North-South dialogue on the establishment of a new international economic order. That would make it possible, by comparison with General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 32/174, of 19 December 1977, to reaffirm one of the basic functions of the Director-General's Office, above and beyond his duties in the areas of co-ordination and operational activities. The programme would have benefited greatly from a subprogramme based on that approach. Other delegations did not share that view, particularly regarding the new international economic order.

144. A number of delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the co-ordination of policies and programmes for the economic and social development of Africa was presented as a subprogramme and was not the subject of a programme by itself.

145. A number of delegations felt that references to "programmes and resources" in subprogramme 3 should be deleted, as well as the last sentence of paragraph 11.28.

Conclusions and recommendations

146. The Committee recommended approval of programme 11 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 on the understanding that:

(a) Subprogramme 5 should be improved and broadened into a separate proposed programme for African economic recovery and development in conformity with the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning. The proposed programme should be prepared, taking into account the specific proposals made and views expressed by delegations during the discussions regarding the content, format and structure of the programme. It should be submitted to the resumed thirtieth session of the Committee in September 1990.

(b) While recognizing the commendable efforts of the Secretary-General in the development of a system-wide plan of action as an instrument for co-ordination and recognizing also that further efforts are needed to improve the methodology for its preparation, the Committee requested the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, to prepare a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, taking into account the development of the situation, and to submit it to the thirty-second session of the Committee, in 1992.

(c) The programme and plan should be prepared in full consultation with ECA as well as with other relevant units of the organizations of the United Nations system.

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

147. At its 48th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee considered programme 12, Global development issues and policies, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 12)).

Discussion

148. Some delegations questioned the designation of high priority to subprogrammes 5 and 9. A number of delegations felt that subprogrammes 3 and 6 should be assigned high priority.

149. Some delegations were of the opinion that there was a certain amount of overlap among programmes 11, 12 and 14.

Conclusions and recommendations

150. The Committee stressed that more emphasis should be given to the link between economic and social development.

151. The Committee agreed that the conceptual framework and recommendations of General Assembly resolutions 44/205, 44/228, 44/232 and S-18/3 should be adequately reflected in the relevant subprogrammes as mandates.

152. The Committee further agreed that the co-ordination of activities between programme 12 and other programmes, as well as with specialized agencies, was an essential aspect of the implementation of the programme.

153. The Committee recommended approval of programme 12 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) Throughout the programme "debt overhang" should be replaced by "external indebtedness".

(b) Paragraph 12.43. Replace "and other highly indebted countries" by "and some other countries with serious debt-servicing problems".

Programme 13. International trade

154. At its 45th meeting, on 5 June, the Committee considered programme 13, International trade, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 13)).

Discussion

155. A number of delegations considered that the programme was a balanced presentation of the policy orientation in that area, given the broad and complex activities covered in an integrated manner by the programme.

156. A number of delegations suggested that subprogramme 4, Transfer of technology, should cover the financing of such transfer and also the transfer of environmentally sound technology. Other delegations could not share that view.

157. Some delegations considered that subprogramme 5, Trade among countries having different economic and social systems, should be deleted, given the emerging structural changes in the economies of Eastern European countries. Other delegations felt that the subprogramme should be retained and adjusted as appropriate in the light of future intergovernmental decisions.

158. A suggestion was made as to the possibility of considering a subprogramme dealing with the economies in transition in Eastern Europe. Other delegations could not share that view.

159. A number of delegations felt that subprogrammes 4 and 6 should be designated high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

160. The Committee recommended that General Assembly resolution S-18/3 be added to the introductory sections and the relevant subprogrammes of the programme.

161. The Committee recommended approval of programme 13 of the proposed medium-term plan subject to the above recommendation and with the following modification: subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 should be assigned high priority.

Programme 14. Development finance, resource flows and external debt

162. At its 44th meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered programme 14, Development finance, resource flows and external debt, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 14)).

Discussion

163. Some delegations considered that the programme should deal especially with the availability of external resources to developing countries and not only with their utilization and adequacy. Other delegations believed that equal emphasis should be placed on effective utilization of external resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

164. The Committee recommended that resolutions 44/205, 44/232 and S-18/3 should be included as legislative mandates for subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3.

165. The Committee stressed the need for close co-operation in particular with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs on issues related to debt, in the context of paragraph 8 of the programme.

166. The Committee recommended approval of programme 14 of the proposed medium-term plan subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) Subprogrammes 1 and 2 should be assigned high priority.

(b) Paragraph 14.12 (d). After "mobilization" insert "and its productive utilization".

(c) Paragraph 14.15. After "developing countries" insert "and some other countries with serious debt-servicing problems".

(d) Paragraph 14.16. After "institutions" in the fifth line insert "as well as some other countries with serious debt-servicing problems".

(e) The programme should take into account the latest developments within the United Nations as regards consideration of the issues of debt and transfer of resources, including innovative measures to resolve the debt problem. In that respect, the programme should adequately reflect the conceptual framework and recommendations contained in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (resolution S-18/3) and resolutions 44/205 and 44/232.

Programme 15. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

167. At its 45th meeting, on 5 June, the Committee considered programme 15, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 15)).

Discussion

168. Some delegations considered that the structure and clarity of the programme would have been improved by a structure of four subprogrammes addressing the following:

1. Least developed countries;

2. Land-locked developing countries;

3. Island developing countries;

4. Special programmes: assistance to the Palestinian people.

It was suggested that within such a structure least developed countries should receive a high-priority designation. Other delegations were of the view that the proposed structure was acceptable.

169. Several delegations observed that the programme should have placed more emphasis on problems relating to the international economic environment. They stressed that the development of the least developed countries should surpass internationally accepted minimum standards. It was noted that paragraph 15.12 reflected the language of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

170. A number of delegations observed that issues relating to the land-locked and island developing countries had not been adequately treated in the programme. Many areas of concern had not been addressed, including the necessary linkages and co-ordination between the regional commissions and other entities of the Organization, such as UNDP.

Reservation

171. One delegation did not support the inclusion of the special programme concerning Palestinians and expressed doubt about the contributions those activities would make to the social and economic development of Palestinians.

Conclusions and recommendations

172. The Committee noted that subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, would be adjusted in the light of the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990.

173. The Committee also noted that the implementation of the part of subprogramme 2 concerning island developing countries should take into account the results of the forthcoming intergovernmental expert meeting scheduled for 1990 and the consideration of the question at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee recommended that the revisions to the plan in 1992 reflect new mandates that might be given.

174. The Committee considered that the problems of transit countries should also be reflected in subprogramme 2, Land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes.

175. The Committee recommended approval of programme 15 of the proposed medium-term plan with the following modifications:

(a) Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, should be assigned high priority.

(b) Paragraph 15.7. In the context of paragraph 15.12 (c), the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) should be added to the list of co-ordinating organizations in the third line of paragraph 15.7.

(c) Subprogramme 2. The following headings should be added: "Land-locked and island developing countries" should be inserted after the heading "Subprogramme 2. Land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes"; and "Assistance to the Palestinian people" should be inserted after paragraph 15.22 (e).

(d) Paragraph 15.12 (f). Insert the words "and integration" after "co-operation".

(e) General Assembly resolutions 44/26 on the law of the sea, and 44/206 on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, should be added to subprogramme 2.

Programme 16. Environment

176. At its 29th and 30th meetings, on 25 and 26 May, the Committee considered programme 16, Environment, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 16)).

Discussion

177. A number of delegations felt that the presentation was unbalanced in the sense that there was little reference to the impact of production and consumption patterns of the developed countries on environment. It was also pointed out that the linkage between environment and the transfer of technology and additional financial resources should have been given high priority in the programme.

178. It was also stated that since the medium-term plan was the principal policy directive for the activities of the United Nations, the priorities indicated in the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995 should not necessarily be reflected in the programme.

179. A number of delegations felt that paragraph 16.24, dealing with fresh-water ecosystems, should be deleted. Other delegations felt that it should be retained.

180. Some delegations were of the view that programmes in international water systems should be developed only in water basins on which there was clear agreement of the countries concerned. Other delegations did not agree, upheld existing international law and practice regarding shared water basins and were of the view that water basin development activities should be implemented accordingly.

181. Several delegations noted that the concept of environmental security had not been accepted by the General Assembly and that it should not be used in the plan. They were of the view that subprogramme 9 should be deleted and its content revised in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions and its activities distributed among relevant subprogrammes. Other delegations could not go along with that suggestion.

182. It was noted that the subprogramme, as well as all others, should be implemented in the context of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

183. Several delegations felt that the issue of global warming and sea-level rise was not properly treated in subprogramme 1: a more precise analysis of that risk should have been provided. It was noted that the International Panel on Climate Change was actively considering the issue.

184. Several delegations felt that the suggestion to set up institutions to implement environmental law was premature and not based on a specific mandate, and should therefore be addressed in the light of decisions to be taken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Conclusions and recommendations

185. The Committee felt that recent mandates of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 44/228, should have been reflected in the programme.

186. The Committee stressed the provisional nature of programme 16. It was emphasized that the programme, as well as other relevant programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, would have to be revised, as appropriate, in the light of the decisions to be taken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

187. The Committee also stressed the close relationship between environment and development. Revisions to programme 16, as well as other relevant programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, would have to highlight all aspects of the relationship.

188. The Committee emphasized the importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system and within the international community as a whole for the implementation of programme 16.

189. The Committee concluded that there was no legislative basis to assign priority in subprogramme 2 to international water systems in the context of setting up multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources.

190. The Committee felt that the issues of deforestation, drought and desertification should have been better highlighted in the programme.

191. The Committee considered that the activities of the regional commissions in the area should be specifically acknowledged.

192. The Committee recommended approval of programme 16 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) Subprogramme 13 should be renamed Global and regional co-operation, and also be designated high priority.

(b) In subprogramme 6, the role of UNDRO and the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should be explicitly mentioned.

(c) The last part of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) after the word "Protocol" should be deleted, as it was not in accordance with current legislative mandates.

(d) Subprogramme 3, Terrestrial ecosystems, should also cover the protection of all forest ecosystems.

Programme 17. Science and technology for development

193. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 4 June, the Committee considered programme 17, Science and technology for development, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 17)).

Conclusions and recommendations

194. The Committee recommended that General Assembly resolutions 44/228 and S-18/3 should be reflected in the programme, as appropriate, and that those legislative mandates should be fully reflected throughout its implementation.

195. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 17 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: Paragraph 17.13. Subprogramme 1 should be designated high priority; there should be no designation of lowest priority and, consequently, the last sentence should be deleted.

Programme 18. Population

196. At its 34th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered programme 18, Population, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 18)).

Discussion

197. A number of delegations expressed support for the general thrust of the programme. Others expressed the view that, in a number of subprogrammes, the proposed course of action should have clearly spelt out how the problems identified would be addressed. Some delegations felt that co-ordination with other bodies of the United Nations, especially the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, should be emphasized and described more clearly.

Conclusions and recommendations

198. The Committee recommended approval of programme 18 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: subprogramme 5, Technical co-operation in population, should also be designated high priority.

Programme 19. Natural resources

199. At its 42nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered programme 19, Natural resources, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 19)).

Discussion

200. Some delegations emphasized the importance of environmental issues in the implementation of the programme, in particular, for subprogrammes 1 and 2. The need to take into account the impact of large-scale development projects and deforestation on water resources was also highlighted.

201. Some delegations expressed the view that the programme could have been merged with the Energy programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

202. The Committee agreed that General Assembly resolution 44/228 should be included as legislative authority for subprogramme 2.

203. It was also pointed out that, while the objective of subprogramme 2, Water resources development and management, was geared to developing countries, the problem of water pollution referred to in that subprogramme affected both developing and developed countries.

204. The Committee stressed the fact that the programme would need to be revised in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

205. The Committee recommended approval of programme 19 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 20. Energy

206. At its 39th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 20, Energy, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 20)).

Discussion

207. A number of delegations questioned the designation of priority for subprogramme 1, while others felt that the subprogramme had been given the proper priority.

208. One delegation expressed the view that all activities under the programme should be consolidated under the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

Conclusions and recommendations

209. The Committee emphasized that the relation between environment and energy should be emphasized throughout the programme.

210. The Committee stressed the importance of improving co-ordination among all the organizations and agencies concerned.

211. The Committee recommended approval of programme 20 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modification: subprogramme 6, Development and transfer of technology for exploiting critical energy resources, should also be accorded high priority.

Programme 21. Public administration and finance

212. At its 40th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 21, Public administration and finance, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 21)).

Discussion

213. Some delegations felt that the operational activities should respond not only to the needs of developing countries but also to those of other interested countries.

214. A number of delegations recognized that there should be no relationship between reform in public sector management and structural adjustment programmes. Some other delegations felt the need for such a relationship.

Conclusions and recommendations

215. The Committee felt that the narrative of the programme should also highlight external factors and that emphasis should be put on the causes of problems identified.

216. Emphasis was put on the need to avoid programme overlap and to enhance co-ordination between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and UNDP.

217. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 21 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 21.6. In the first sentence, delete "appropriate".

(b) Paragraph 21.25. Add General Assembly resolution 44/213.

(c) Paragraph 21.26. The third sentence should read "In some countries, the civil service may be further handicapped by a relative lack of internal mobility".

(d) Paragraph 21.32. In the first sentence, replace "lack" by "shortage".

(e) Paragraph 21.40. In the first sentence, replace "lack" by "shortage".

Programme 22. Human settlements

218. At its 35th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered programme 22, Human settlements, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 22)).

Discussion

219. Some delegations felt that co-operation and collaboration with the regional commissions should have been spelt out in the overall strategy under paragraph 22.3.

220. A number of delegations expressed concern that the issue of transfer of technology to developing countries was not adequately addressed.

221. Some delegations expressed the view that under subprogramme 1 the expectation that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would be established as a full partner of all global and sectoral development agencies was too ambitious.

Conclusions and recommendations

222. The Committee expressed the view that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 needed to be better highlighted and reflected throughout the programme.

223. The Committee recommended approval of programme 22 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusion and with the following recommendations:

(a) Subprogramme 5, Land management, should not be designated low priority.

(b) Subprogramme 6, Infrastructure development and operation, should be designated high priority.

(c) The reference to Commission on Human Settlements decision 10/24 in subprogrammes 4 and 8 should be deleted as it is not a legislative mandate.

Programme 23. Transnational corporations

224. At its 43rd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee considered draft programme 23, Transnational corporations, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 23)).

Discussion

225. Some delegations suggested that a new subprogramme on "Transnational corporations and environment" should be added to the programme. Other delegations could not go along with that suggestion.

226. Some delegations indicated that the programme did not clearly address the role of transnational banks in external borrowing and debt servicing or the related responsibilities of the Centre. Other delegations could not go along with that suggestion.

227. A number of delegations stressed that the programme did not adequately reflect the measures that should be taken in relation to transnational corporations in South Africa and those dealing with that country. Other delegations did not share that view.

228. Some delegations suggested that subprogramme 3 should be assigned high priority. Other delegations supported the priority designation proposed by the Secretary-General.

229. Several delegations emphasized the importance of transparency and disclosure of all relevant information on the activities and operations of transnational corporations, particularly for the host countries. Other delegations did not share that view.

Conclusions and recommendations

230. The Committee noted that the work envisaged in respect of the code of conduct was contingent upon the adoption of the latter.

231. The Committee was of the view that emphasis should continue to be placed in the programme on the impact and role of transnational corporations in the context of environment and development.

232. The Committee recommended approval of programme 23 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and with the following modifications:

(a) The references to "centrally planned economies" in paragraphs 23.13, 23.17, 23.20 and 23.27 should be replaced by "Central and Eastern European States".

(b) Paragraph 23.16. Delete the words "the Commission and" in the second sentence.

(c) Paragraph 23.22. Insert "dumping of toxic wastes" after "chemicals," and ", including nuclear wastes," after "material" in the second sentence.

(d) Paragraph 23.22. Replace "appropriate" by "effective" in the last sentence.

Programme 24. Statistics

233. At its 35th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered programme 24, Statistics, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 24)).

Conclusions and recommendations

234. The Committee stressed the importance of the timeliness and easy availability of statistical publications and the need to maintain the central and intersectoral role of the Statistical Office.

235. The Committee also stressed the need for the statistical data contained in those publications to be reliable and comparable.

236. It was agreed that the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/4 should be included as a mandate in subprogramme 1. It also acknowledged the collaboration between the Statistical Office and the United Nations Institute for Social Development.

237. The Committee recommended approval of programme 24 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, taking into account the above conclusions.

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

238. At its 38th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 25, Global social issues and policies, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 25)).

Discussion

239. Some delegations felt that subprogrammes 1 and 2 should be merged into one subprogramme. Some delegations suggested that instead of subprogramme 1, Analysis of emerging social issues, high-priority designation should be assigned to subprogramme 3, Families in the development process.

240. Some delegations expressed the view that the "Guiding principles for developmental social welfare policies and programmes in the near future" of 1987 should serve as a basis for the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

241. The Committee noted the close relationship between the programme and a number of other programmes in the medium-term plan. The Committee therefore stressed the need for strengthened co-ordination in that regard.

242. The Committee recommended approval of programme 25 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 26. Integration of social groups

243. At its 38th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 26, Integration of social groups, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 26)).

Discussion

244. One delegation indicated that the subprogramme on youth should receive high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

245. With regard to paragraph 26.31, the Committee noted that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/26, standard rules of equalization of opportunities of disabled children, youth and others might be elaborated by an open-ended ad hoc working group of government experts.

246. The Committee noted that no priority designation had been proposed among the three subprogrammes.

247. The Committee recommended approval of programme 26 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 27. Advancement of women

248. At its 38th meeting, on 1 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 27, Advancement of women, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 27)).

Discussion

249. Some delegations suggested that subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 should be consolidated into one subprogramme. Other delegations supported the structure of the programme as proposed. It was proposed that subprogramme 2, Development, should be assigned high priority. It was mentioned that the role of the United Nations in the implementation of the programme, particularly in paragraph 27.5, was overstated. Some delegations indicated that subprogramme 3 should focus more on problems of domestic violence rather than on the role of women in global disarmament issues.

250. Some delegations proposed amendments to the programme:

(a) Subprogramme 1. Reference should be made to national machinery in implementation of the subprogramme and in paragraph 27.13 (h), in addition to the reference to the public sector, reference should also be made to the private sector.

(b) Subprogramme 2. In addition to the mention of non-governmental organizations in paragraph 27.19 (e), reference should also be made to the organizations of the United Nations system.

Conclusions and recommendations

251. The Committee recommended approval of programme 27 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 28. International drug control

252. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 31 May, the Committee considered programme 28, International drug control, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 28)), concurrently with the United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control (E/1990/39 and Corr.1) (see chap. IV, sect. D).

Discussion

253. A number of delegations expressed their agreement with the general orientation and overall strategy of the programme. Some delegations expressed the view that subprogrammes 4 and 5 should have been designated high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

254. The Committee recommended approval of programme 28 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 on the understanding that the programme was provisional and would be revised in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation to reflect all recent mandates contained in the global programme of action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special sesssion.

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

255. At its 38th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered programme 29, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 29)).

Discussion

256. Several delegations indicated that the abolition of capital punishment should not be included among the new areas spelt out in paragraph 29.32 in which standard-setting should be pursued, given the lack of universal acceptance on the issue. Other delegations expressed the view that reference to the abolition of capital punishment should be maintained in that paragraph.

257. Several delegations indicated that the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in implementing the programme should be spelt out more clearly.

Conclusions and recommendations

258. The Committee recommended approval of programme 29 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: the words "including dumping of toxic wastes" should be added at the end of paragraph 29.16 (d).

Programme 30. Regional co-operation for development in Africa

259. At its 32nd meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered programme 30, Regional co-operation for development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 30)).

Discussion

260. A number of delegations pointed to the link between the programme and programme 11, Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination, which included a subprogramme on co-ordination of policies and programmes for the economic and social development of Africa. A number of delegations expressed the view that there was no clear link between the objectives outlined in the present programme and those set in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

261. Several delegations expressed reservations regarding the priority designations among subprogrammes as proposed in the programme. Some delegations suggested that high-priority designation should be assigned to subprogramme 8, Environment, subprogramme 11, Trade development and co-operation, and subprogramme 15, Science and technology.

262. Some delegations expressed the view that, in a number of instances, the treatment of the problems addressed could have been undertaken in a more positive manner.

Conclusions and recommendations

263. The Committee recommended approval of programme 30 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Within the proposed extent of activities, external debt crisis, economic integration in Africa and tourism should be highlighted as the subject of separate subprogrammes.

(b) Subprogramme 8 should be renamed "Environment and development", subprogramme 14, "Energy - including new and renewable", and subprogramme 15, "Science and technology for development".

(c) The new subprogramme on economic co-operation and integration reinstated above should also be designated high priority in the programme.

Programme 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

264. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered programme 31, Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

265. Some delegations felt that the programme was comprehensive and balanced. Others felt that the general objectives for 1992-1997 were not clearly indicated. Some delegations felt that co-ordination between ESCAP and other organizations of the United Nations system could have been emphasized more.

Conclusions and recommendations

266. The Committee recommended approval of programme 31 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

267. The Committee noted, however, that, owing to the postponement of its session, the Commission itself had not had the opportunity to review the programme and would do so when it met in June. The Committee also noted the possibility that the Secretary-General might therefore submit further information on the programme, including the designation of priorities, at its September session.

Programme 32. Regional co-operation for development in Europe

268. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered programme 32, Regional co-operation for development in Europe, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

269. Several delegations expressed the view that high priority should also be given to subprogramme 8, Science and technology. Several other delegations suggested that throughout the programme more emphasis should be placed on the needs of less developed countries in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

270. The Committee agreed that programme 32, including the orientations of its activities, might need to be adjusted appropriately, in the context of the review being undertaken by ECE.

271. The Committee recommended approval of programme 32 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusion and with the following modification: reference to "centrally planned economies" throughout the programme should be replaced by "Central and Eastern European States".

Programme 33. Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

272. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered programme 33, Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 33)).

Discussion

273. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the general thrust of the programme and noted with satisfaction the emphasis that ECLAC would give to liaison and co-operation with other Secretariat units, as well as to co-ordination with the relevant specialized agencies, in implementing the programme.

274. In connection with subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, some delegations welcomed the inclusion of that subprogramme, which was in response to decisions of the twenty-ninth session of CPC. They felt, however, that there should be a link between it and subprogramme 2, Economic development. Those delegations also observed that the scope of the problems to be addressed in subprogramme 13 went beyond the servicing of external debt and expressed the view that more emphasis should be given to technical co-operation in that subprogramme.

275. Some delegations expressed the view that the consolidation and perfecting of democratic processes with a view to promoting pluralistic societies were not elements used in the United Nations to mitigate the problem of external debt-servicing of the Latin American region, as the causes and solutions of that problem were linked to other factors.

Conclusions and recommendations

276. The Committee stressed that in subprogramme 7, Environment and human settlements, the problem of environment should be linked to the general issue of development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989.

277. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 33 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modification: priority designation to subprogramme 2, Economic development, should be amended to read "high priority".

Programme 34. Regional co-operation for development in western Asia

278. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 29 and 30 May, the Committee considered programme 34, Regional co-operation for development in western Asia, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 34)).

Discussion

279. Some delegations expressed satisfaction with the general thrust of the programme.

280. Some delegations considered that some of the activities proposed exceeded the current legislation mandates and that several sections of the programme required redrafting to reflect the current international labour and trading environment.

281. Some delegations considered that while the issue of integration of women in development was important, the activities proposed for subprogramme 13 were not sufficiently precise.

282. Under subprogramme 2, Development issues and policies, attention was drawn to the recent reunification of Democratic Yemen and Yemen.

Conclusions and recommendations

283. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 34 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 34.42. In the tenth line, replace the sentence "The two ... large trade deficits." by "The least developed country of the ESCWA region, the Republic of Yemen, is dependent on external resources to finance development projects and its large trade deficit."

(b) Paragraph 34.44 (b). The paragraph should read:

"Studies related to the problems of least developed countries, as they relate to the Republic of Yemen, will be implemented in close co-operation with ESCWA."

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

284. At its 48th and 50th meetings, on 6 and 7 June, the Committee considered programme 35 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 35)).

Discussion

285. Some delegations stressed the need for the programme to focus on the implementation of existing instruments rather than on the creation of new ones. It was noted in that context that the norms and treaties cited under the objectives of subprogramme 2 were not an exhaustive list of existing norms and treaties in the field of human rights. Some delegations expressed the view that the list should only include treaties that had been adopted by consensus.

286. Some delegations pointed out that the right of indigenous populations should not be allowed to be used as a pretext to violate the fundamental freedoms of other citizens. In this connection, one delegation referred to a particular case, which in his view should be reviewed by the substantive bodies concerned.

287. Some delegations felt that issues such as external debt and readjustment policies, toxic waste and chemical weapons should be dealt with more appropriately in other forums and that they should not therefore be envisaged as new areas of research under subprogramme 4. Other delegations felt that the impact of such issues on the enjoyment of human rights should be studied.

288. Some delegations pointed out that the rights of minorities were of a different nature than the rights of migrant workers and that the course of action envisaged under subprogramme 2 should take into account that difference.

289. A number of delegations questioned the reference to the right to development in the context of standard-setting under subprogramme 4, while others felt that such a reference was appropriate.

290. Some delegations were of the view that human rights, assistance to refugees and disaster relief were issues related to social development and that major programme VII should therefore be merged with major programme V. Other delegations recalled the separate and specific reference to the term human rights in the Charter of the United Nations. Some delegations were of the view that General Assembly resolution 44/164 should be added to the legislative mandates of the programme.

291. A number of delegations noted that reference should be made to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the programme.

292. A number of delegations requested the Secretariat to reflect in the programme the mandates of the Commission on Human Rights concerning the rights of people to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and economic and social rights.

293. Some delegations were of the view that subprogramme 2 should be given high priority since it dealt with standards that had been set in the Charter. Some delegations expressed the view that, in paragraph 35.14 (b), the phrase "in accordance with established machinery" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

294. Several delegations stressed the importance of the relationship between human rights, peace and development, and agreed that that relationship should be adequately reflected in the programme. In particular, they stressed that development was a fundamental human right.

295. Several delegations stressed that all the mandates related to human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories should be reflected in the programme.

296. Some delegations recommended that all existing legislative mandates relating to monitoring mechanisms, including thematic reporting, and to gross violations should be reflected in the programme. Other delegations did not share that view.

297. Some delegations expressed the view that the programme of the United Nations on human rights should be free of the use of human rights issues for political purposes that some attempted to impose in the treatment of the item.

298. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the second phrase of paragraph 35.3 should be deleted since it was not a complete assessment. In the view of those delegations, the right of peoples to economic and social development was one of the fundamental human rights. They also expressed the view that for the full enjoyment of human rights it was necessary to achieve economic and social development.

299. Some delegations expressed the opinion that, in order to promote and protect the universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, in particular the respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the right to self-determination and political independence of peoples, the non-threat or use of force in international relations should be fully respected.

300. Some delegations stressed that, while implementing the objectives reflected in the programme, the United Nations should be guided by the rules and procedures established by relevant resolutions and decisions.

301. At the 59th meeting, on 11 June, one delegation requested the Controller to provide an answer to the question as to whether it should be understood that paragraph 303 meant, inter alia, that the Secretary-General would submit proposals to revise programme 35 on the promotion and protection of human rights in order to include in it all activities that referred to human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories and the mandates of the Commission on Human Rights that had to do with the right of peoples to self-determination and independence. In response, the Controller stated, at the same meeting, that his understanding of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee in paragraph 303 would be that, in the context of requesting the Secretary-General to recognize the need to improve the structure of the medium-term plan, including revisions, the Committee would also have asked the Secretary-General to undertake all the necessary actions within his authority and sphere of responsibility so as to reflect all the views of Member States contained in paragraphs 285 to 300 and 302 in his proposals to improve the structure of the plan, as well as in the future revisions. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General would see to it that all the views expressed by Member States in the above-mentioned paragraphs would be brought to the attention of the relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning through revisions to the plan containing, as appropriate, proposals on the structure and content of the plan,

including cross-referencing. The necessary actions would be undertaken by the responsible officers of the Secretariat upon adoption of the report by the Committee and subject to its final approval by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

Reservation

302. One delegation noted that United Nations activities relating to the situation in the Middle East did not take into account the human rights situation of all the peoples of the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

303. The Committee recalled its conclusions concerning the need to improve the structure of the medium-term plan, including revisions, in terms of definition of sectors of activity and their presentation, as well as the need to cross-reference, as appropriate, programmes and subprogrammes to relevant activities in the plan, taking into account the views expressed by Member States in the discussion.

304. The Committee recommended approval of programme 35 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 36. International protection of and assistance to refugees

305. At its 50th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered programme 36, International protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 36)).

Discussion

306. Some delegations felt that UNHCR should put more emphasis on preventing the root cause of the refugee problem.

307. Some delegations felt that there should be no priorities among the solutions described in subprogramme 5 as there were different approaches to the refugee problem depending on the circumstances. Some delegations felt that high priority could be assigned to subprogramme 4.

308. Other delegations emphasized the fact that, owing to the humanitarian nature of the activities of UNHCR, financial difficulties should not be allowed to affect its programmes.

309. Some delegations pointed out that the programme should be seen in the context of the financial difficulties of UNHCR.

310. A number of delegations pointed out the need for UNHCR to adhere to its original mandate in order to ensure that it did not become a development-oriented organization.

311. The view was expressed that the problems of refugees in southern Africa was not adequately reflected in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

312. The Committee recommended approval of programme 36 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 36.19. Reference should be made to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(b) Paragraph 36.22. The legislative authority for subprogramme 1 should include resolution 44/164.

(c) Paragraph 36.55. The legislative authority for subprogramme 6 should include the relevant resolutions concerning the protection of Palestinian refugees.

(d) Paragraph 36.56. The words "Subject to the availability of funds" should be deleted.

Programme 37. Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes

313. At its 50th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered programme 37, Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 37)).

Discussion

314. Some delegations felt that specific activities planned for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should have been better highlighted in the programme. Other delegations suggested a separate subprogramme on the Decade.

315. Some delegations referred to the apparent overlap between subprogrammes 1 and 4.

Conclusions and recommendations

316. The Committee agreed on the importance of United Nations disaster relief efforts and stressed the need to ensure effective co-ordination system-wide and to utilize fully the designated focal points at the country level.

317. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes, should also be designated high priority.

318. The Committee also agreed that the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should be incorporated in the programme in accordance with resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989.

319. The Committee recommended approval of programme 37 of the proposed medium-term plan subject to the above conclusions and with the following modification: subprogramme 3: add General Assembly resolution 44/236 to the legislative authority.

Programme 38. Public information

320. At its 41st meeting, on 2 June, the Committee considered programme 38, Public information, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 38)).

Discussion

321. While a number of delegations felt that the narrative was clear, concise and in line with prior recommendations of the Committee, some delegations regretted that it did not mention any concrete and time-limited objectives.

322. Several delegations supported the priority designation of subprogramme 1, Promotional services. One delegation indicated that subprogramme 2, Information services, should have been granted high priority. Another delegation noted that the two subprogrammes were closely related and expressed the hope that the granting of high priority to the first subprogramme would not affect the second subprogramme negatively.

323. Some delegations were of the view that, in the absence of assumptions on resource levels in conformity with rule 103.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the future implementation of the activities listed remained uncertain.

324. A variety of views were expressed by delegations on the major topics identified in paragraph 38.10. While some delegations were satisfied that the five areas of activity referred to reflected accurately the agreement reached by the Committee at its twenty-eighth session, other delegations were of the view that such a list of activities should be identical to that contained in paragraph 1 (2) (c) of part II of resolution 44/50 of 8 December 1989, entitled "Questions relating to information". One delegation felt that the issue of human rights should be mentioned in relation to other issues in the social sector and that the issues of trade and the elimination of poverty should be included in connection with development issues. Other delegations questioned the inclusion of the establishment of the new international economic order and of the establishment of a new world information and communication order among the development issues. Reference was made to the report of the Committee on Information to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. One delegation expressed the view that, in dealing with the question of Palestine referred to in the list, the Department should endeavour to present a balanced presentation on the subject.

325. Some delegations stressed the importance of having a geographical balance at the senior levels of the Department as a way to reflect the geographical composition of the United Nations. Other delegations recalled the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Reservations

326. One delegation noted that the United Nations activities related to the question of Palestine had not contributed to a peaceful solution to the situation in the Middle East.

Conclusions and recommendations

327. The Committee agreed with the structure of the programme in two subprogrammes.

328. The Committee stressed the need for improvement in the quality and timeliness of outputs in subprogramme 2, and for continuing evaluation of their impact on end users.

329. The Committee also noted the absence of specific references to recent and forthcoming meetings and conferences as the source of mandates for future special public information activities. The Committee stressed that periodic revisions to the medium-term plan should provide an opportunity to update programme 38 in that connection.

330. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring linguistic diversity in the outputs of the Department.

331. The Committee further noted that the narrative did not include a specific reference to the activities carried out by the information centres and stressed the need for the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular, that United Nations information centres should be given sufficient resources to enable them to function effectively.

332. The Committee recommended approval of programme 38 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions.

B. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989

333. At its 13th to 19th meetings, on 15 to 18 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

334. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

335. It was noted that the format and presentation of the report reflected some of the improvements the Committee had recommended at its twenty-eighth session. In particular, it was helpful to have presented output delivery by category of output and by major programme of the medium-term plan.

336. The Committee also noted that major methodological problems still existed relating to an objective measurement and assessment of the programme performance of the Organization. Specific problems that had been mentioned by the Committee during its consideration of previous reports and that were clearly outlined in the present report of the Secretary-General had not been solved.

337. The Committee emphasized the need for continued improvement of the methodology for programme performance reporting. Such improvements were particularly needed in the following areas:

(a) A comprehensive monitoring of all activities of the Organization, and not only of measurable outputs as currently defined;

(b) A more satisfactory categorization of outputs, taking into account their diversity and their very different weights both in terms of resource use and relevance to Member States;

(c) A distinction between activities and outputs financed from the regular budget and activities and outputs, including operational projects, financed from extrabudgetary resources;

(d) A reassessment of the criteria used in the monitoring exercise, notably measurement of performance and reformulation, postponement, termination and addition of outputs or activities.

338. The Committee also considered that the report should be improved in both its analytical content and scope. The data on programme performance should be accompanied by explanations on the circumstances and reasons for departures from approved programmatic content of the programme budget. Future programme performance reports should provide not only a picture of programme delivery, but also an analysis that would, inter alia, enable the Committee to have a better overview of its own role and of that of the various functional, sectoral and regional bodies in the implementation of the programme budget of the Organization during the biennium. It would also enable the Secretariat to provide more satisfactory explanations regarding the postponement, termination and addition of outputs and activities. Further, it would shed light on the application of the current rule concerning programmatic changes affecting more than one third of the final outputs of a subprogramme (rule 105.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation).

339. The Committee stressed the need to ensure complementarity between programme performance reporting and budget performance reporting. Member States should be provided with appropriate information to facilitate their overall assessment of the implementation of a programme budget, in all its related financial and programmatic aspects. The Committee recognized that such integrated performance reporting was still hampered by many conceptual and methodological difficulties. As an initial step, the budget performance report should include information on programme delivery and the programme performance report should include data on the use of resources during a biennium.

340. The Committee noted that improvements in the programme performance report were, to a large extent, dependent upon improvements in the format and presentation of the programme budget. That was particularly necessary with regard to the

definition of outputs and activities and the monitoring of programmes financed partially or totally from extrabudgetary resources. The Committee agreed to revert to the question in the context of its consideration at its thirty-first session of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

341. In that context, and in order to ensure timely changes and improvements in future programme performance reporting, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report to its thirty-first session on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the Organization. That report should take into account past and present recommendations and conclusions of the Committee, the pertinent regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, and the requirements of the programming and budgeting process contained in General Assembly resolution 41/213 and subsequent related resolutions. (See annex III for the statement on programme budget implications submitted on 3 July 1990 by the Secretary-General in this connection.)

342. The Committee acknowledged the relationship between the monitoring of programme performance and the questions of priority-setting in the programme budget, the outline and the medium-term plan. The Committee would revert to the matter during the second part of its thirtieth session in the context of its consideration of the agenda item on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of proposed programme budgets.

343. The magnitude of the unresolved conceptual and methodological problems still prevalent in the monitoring of programme performance prevented specific conclusions on that performance by section of the programme budget or by major programme of the medium-term plan. The Committee noted, however, that the overall rate of implementation of programmed outputs was lower than in previous bienniums owing, inter alia, to prevailing constraints under which the Organization had operated during the biennium.

C. Evaluation

1. Application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

344. At its 2nd, 3rd, 6th to 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7, 9 to 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/45/204).

Conclusions and recommendations

345. The Committee noted that self-evaluation had not been completely accepted as a management tool. It also expressed its concern over the fact that only a small percentage of all subprogrammes had so far been evaluated. The Committee was of the view that the conduct of training in self-evaluation was satisfactory and that training should be continued.

346. The Committee noted that evaluation had not been fully integrated into the programme planning cycle and called for greater efforts to be made to apply evaluation findings in subsequent planning and programming.

347. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of units had established formal mechanisms for evaluation and that they routinely reported their evaluation findings to their intergovernmental bodies. It also noted that other units were in the process of establishing evaluation mechanisms.

348. The Committee stressed that efforts should be intensified to draw evaluation findings to the attention of specialized intergovernmental bodies. It urged those bodies to give due substantive consideration to those findings in order to ensure their reflection in programme design, delivery and policy directives in accordance with regulation 7.3 of the Regulations and Rules.

349. The Committee noted the recurrent problems relating to programme design in the current medium-term plan, which made it difficult to measure accomplishments against objectives. It stressed the importance of continuing efforts at improvement in that respect.

350. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of the evaluation process for programme planning and programme implementation and recommended further strengthening of evaluation in the United Nations. In particular, the Secretary-General should:

(a) Make every effort to ensure that evaluation is fully integrated into the programme planning cycle, particularly by the application of evaluation findings;

(b) Intensify training in self-evaluation, as well as in other components of the programme cycle;

(c) Ensure that consideration is given to the terms in which objectives are expressed and, where these are not in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and Rules, propose alternative formulations in evaluation reports submitted to intergovernmental bodies;

(d) Inform specialized intergovernmental bodies of findings from in-depth evaluations and from self-evaluations, and encourage those bodies to arrive at recommendations and decisions for improving programme design, implementation and results;

(e) Give greater emphasis to the refinement of evaluation methodologies and to the practical applications of evaluation findings.

2. In-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements

351. At its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7 to 9, 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements (E/AC.51/1990/2).

Conclusions and recommendations

352. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the format and content of the evaluation report, which had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 89 to 91 of its report on the work of its twenty-eighth session. 3/

353. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General would present to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly a report on extrabudgetary resources, which would, inter alia, address the question of the redesigning of programming and budgeting methodology. It requested that in future evaluations the treatment of extrabudgetary resources should take into account General Assembly decisions on the report.

354. The Committee expressed satisfaction that the outputs of the programmes reaching end-users had been utilized and considered useful. It stressed the need to overcome problems relating to the distribution of outputs and dissemination strategies and systems.

355. The Committee recommended the adoption of the recommendations contained in paragraph 115 of the report and requested that they should be given due attention by relevant intergovernmental bodies.

356. With regard to recommendations on the dissemination of information, the Committee requested that the attention of the relevant intergovernmental bodies should also be drawn to paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's report on the application of evaluation findings (A/45/204).

3. In-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

357. At its 2nd to 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7 to 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1990/3 and Corr.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

358. The Committee recommended that it undertake the evaluation of the disarmament programme at its thirty-first session, in 1991, taking into account relevant conclusions and recommendations made at its twenty-ninth session, relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, as well as observations of the Secretary-General for the evaluation of programmes in the political area contained in paragraphs 47 to 57 of his report.

359. The Committee felt that evaluations by the Secretariat of the intergovernmental machinery, in the context of programme evaluation, would be appropriate only when specifically requested by Member States.

360. Option A of paragraph 60 should be adopted and any questionnaires based on the issues noted in annex I should be restricted to items 1 (a) and (b), 3 (a) and 5.

361. The Committee endorsed the issues to be addressed that were presented in paragraphs 22, 33 and 38, the methods of data collection proposed in paragraphs 23, 34 to 36 and 39 to 41, and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 42 to 46.

4. Evaluation of the programme on the protection of and assistance to refugees

362. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the programme on the protection of and assistance to refugees (E/AC.51/1990/7).

Conclusions and recommendations

363. The Committee took note of the report, on the understanding that the progress report on the evaluation of UNRWA would be submitted to the Committee in 1993, at which time a decision on the final report on UNRWA would be taken.

5. In-depth evaluation of the major programme on science and technology

364. At its 2nd to 4th, 7th, 9th and 46th meetings, on 7, 8, 10 and 11 May and 5 June, the Committee reviewed the progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on science and technology (E/AC.51/1990/4).

Conclusions and recommendations

365. The Committee noted the existence of many evaluations and assessments of United Nations activities in the area of science and technology. It also noted that the progress report presented a clear picture, based on a review of existing material, of the historical developments leading to the present status of the major programme. The evaluation of past performance had been accomplished essentially by the reports and intergovernmental action cited in the progress report, including General Assembly resolution 44/14 of 26 October 1989, which reaffirmed the validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and addressed the mandates of the institutions derived from it.

366. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-second session, in 1992, a report containing a conclusive analysis, with the contributions of the relevant bodies, identifying options for the future that would include action-oriented proposals for solving the problems identified in the assessments cited in the progress report, including those related to financing, institutional framework and any other problems associated with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

6. In-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa

367. At its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 9th meetings, on 7, 9 and 11 May, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa (E/AC.51/1990/5).

Conclusions and recommendations

368. The Committee considered that the final evaluation report called for in paragraph 294 of the report of the Committee on its twenty-ninth session 4/ should take into account all relevant assessments and self-evaluations. The report should be analytical and provide action-oriented proposals to strengthen programme design and delivery. It should highlight the programmatic issues emerging in the review and evaluations of subprogramme 4, Policies, institution and technical assistance

for subregional economic co-operation, and subprogrammes 7 and 8, on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), as well as ongoing reviews of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

369. The report should include:

(a) An analysis of the programmatic implications of the conclusions and recommendations of the above reports, including the contribution of the development issues and policies programme of ECA to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

(b) A summary of actions on those reports by intergovernmental bodies;

(c) An assessment of all subsequent follow-up activities;

(d) An examination of the effects of extrabudgetary resources on the priorities and on the achievement of objectives;

(e) Conclusions and recommendations, including proposals for the modification of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 where appropriate.

IV. CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on industrial development

370. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on industrial development (E/AC.51/1990/6).

Conclusions and recommendations

371. The Committee noted with appreciation the improved quality and presentation of the report and such innovations in its format as inclusion of an executive summary at the beginning and the extensive use of graphics in the display of data. It was considered that those new approaches would be useful in the forthcoming thematic analyses.

372. The Committee noted that the definition of industrial development in the report was broad and not in conformity with that used by UNIDO. The Committee stressed that in sectors like industrial development, which could be subject to wide interpretation, there was a need to have an agreed definition of the activity under review in order to facilitate meaningful cross-analysis and to avoid comparisons of different types of activities.

373. The Committee noted the conclusion in the report that the system as a whole was pursuing the mandates in industrial development in a rational manner, given the resources available for that purpose.

374. In the case of UNIDO, which had major responsibilities in that field, both directly as the principal United Nations organization in industrial development and as a result of its legislative mandate to co-ordinate activities of all United Nations organizations in the field, the Committee suggested that UNIDO, in co-operation with the World Bank, should consider establishing a substantive liaison function.

375. Given the contribution of the World Bank in financing industrial development in developing countries, the Committee recommended that other United Nations organizations with significant operations in industrial development that did not at that time have active co-ordinative arrangements with the Bank should consider establishing, under mutually agreeable terms, active and pragmatic co-ordination arrangements.

376. UNDP was invited to consider ways and means to provide an information exchange function with regard to pre-investment activities it funded in the area for the mutual benefit of different types of executing agencies.

377. The Committee stressed the importance of co-ordination of activities at the national level among the various organizations engaged in industrial development. Given the significant size of multilateral funding of those activities at that level, it was recommended that co-ordination at the national level be strengthened, through, inter alia, United Nations resident co-ordinators playing a more pivotal role.

Industrial development and the environment

378. The Committee stressed the need for the United Nations organizations active in industrial development to increase their efforts, within their own spheres of competence, to bring about greater understanding of the importance of environmentally favourable considerations in the process of promoting industrial development in developing countries.

379. Given the special responsibilities of UNIDO in the field of industrial development and those of UNEP in the field of environment and the work being done by the World Bank on the issue of industrial development and the environment, it was suggested that those organizations should work closely with each other and with other relevant organizations in the system with a view to co-ordinating their activities more effectively through appropriate consultative mechanisms in order to benefit the United Nations system as a whole, bearing in mind the system-wide medium-term environment programme.

380. The Committee emphasized the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 for economic growth and the industrial development objectives of all countries, though particularly those of developing countries. In that context, a full examination should be carried out of the potential means to achieve those objectives in environmentally safe ways. To assist in that developing countries should have access to technologies designed to promote environmentally sound industrial development. The joint efforts involving United Nations organizations in that undertaking suggested in paragraph 10 were welcomed.

381. The Committee highlighted the importance of the proposal by the Economic and Social Council for a thematic analysis on environment and development for 1993. It called upon all relevant United Nations bodies to begin the necessary preparatory work on that analysis at an early date, as well as to provide their inputs to the work of the preparatory committee and subsequently to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Least developed countries

382. The Committee noted that the least developed countries received a low share of development resources for industrial development and stressed the need to provide them with an adequate level and share of resources to enable them to attain viable and sustained industrial development.

Economic co-operation among developing countries/technical co-operation among developing countries

383. The Committee recognized the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. It recommended greater use of those co-operative instruments among all developing countries.

Women and development

384. The Committee also stressed the need for the organizations of the United Nations system to pursue efforts towards the full involvement of women in industrial development programmes and project activities designed to enable them to

participate in the industrialization process to their full potential and in accordance with the system-wide medium-term plan on women and development, 1990-1995.

B. Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis

385. At its 14th meeting, on 15 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis (E/AC.51/1990/8).

Conclusions and recommendations

386. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1990/8).

387. The Committee noted the additional information contained in the report on developments in the field of social research and policy analysis in the United Nations system.

388. It also noted information on increasing efforts undertaken within the United Nations Secretariat and by autonomous research bodies of the United Nations system to improve the relationship and practical co-operation between units and organizations engaged in economic and social research.

389. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to secure greater interaction among the research bodies of the United Nations system and those outside the United Nations family of organizations.

C. Co-ordination in the United Nations system

390. At its 2nd to 10th meetings, on 7 to 11 May, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989 (E/1990/18 and Add.1) and the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/4).

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Strengthening co-ordination in the United Nations system

391. The Committee agreed that there was a growing need for efficient and coherent utilization of the human and financial resources, as well as a complementarity of efforts, of the United Nations system as a whole and it highlighted the importance it attached to co-ordination as an important instrument to achieve that, at both the intergovernmental and inter-secretariat levels.

392. The Committee recognized that the existing mechanisms for co-ordination, at the intergovernmental, intra- and inter-secretariat levels, were well established. It was noted, however, that better use of those mechanisms had to be made to meet the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and an increased commitment vis-à-vis system-wide co-ordination from both secretariats of the United Nations system and from Member States was desirable.

393. The Committee noted that improvement of co-ordination in the United Nations system was one of the topics to be considered at the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC. The Committee looked forward to receiving appropriate documentation from ACC that would facilitate discussion of the topic.

394. The Committee agreed that the discussion of the question of strengthening of co-ordination in the United Nations system should continue on the basis of relevant information to be submitted to the Committee by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of ACC.

395. At the inter-secretariat level, the Committee agreed that the leadership role in co-ordination of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, should be reaffirmed, particularly in encouraging that Committee to continue to improve its work.

396. The Committee noted that more effective co-ordination would be facilitated through improved compilation and transparency of all necessary data from across the system, based on consistent definitions of specific functional areas.

2. The annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

397. The Committee recognized that commendable initial efforts had been made to improve the format and content of the ACC overview report for 1989 (E/1990/18 and Add.1). The Committee considered the summary of the report well prepared, highlighting major issues and problems addressed by ACC.

398. The Committee welcomed the foreword by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of ACC. The Committee appreciated the emphasis placed by him on the need for global co-operation in the form of joint action by organizations of the United Nations system in addressing major global problems.

399. The Committee encouraged ACC to continue to focus its annual report on major developments in the United Nations in the previous year and to identify issues where multi-agency action was required. It should also review progress made in the implementation of system-wide action plans.

400. The Committee agreed that the ACC report should be more forward-looking and provide action-oriented conclusions and recommendations. Where differences existed among its members or where difficulties in co-ordination were encountered, it should keep Member States informed, including providing information on remedial measures that had been considered and implemented.

401. The Committee drew the attention of ACC to the following comments, which were relevant for the preparation of future reports:

(a) On the preparation of the new international development strategy, ACC should indicate relevant programmes and resources of respective organizations that might be used to implement the proposed new strategy;

(b) On questions related to environment and development, ACC should systematically report on ongoing activities, including specific cases of co-operative activities. Such information would facilitate the task of the Preparatory Committee of the 1992 Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989;

(c) On the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, ACC should improve inter-agency co-ordination within the United Nations system of various programmes concerning that Decade, which will also be considered under the agenda item of natural disaster reduction at the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC;

(d) The efforts of ACC to make optimal use of resources to enhance the public image of the United Nations were commended;

(e) The effort to achieve closer co-ordination and co-operation of the procurement activities of the system should be further intensified. The Committee noted the progress made so far and concurred that such efforts could result in considerable savings for participating organizations of the system. The Committee encouraged ACC to report on further progress in the future;

(f) The Committee looked forward to receiving the views and recommendations of ACC on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 in its annual overview report for 1990;

(g) The Committee recommended that the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees should consider information to be presented to them on a prototype for a revised annual overview report of ACC.

402. The Committee welcomed the decision of ACC to reconvene its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) to ensure the provision in its future reports of comprehensive information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the system, as requested by Member States. The Committee looked forward to the active contributions of all organizations of the system in that endeavour. Bearing in mind the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Committee emphasized that it was essential that the resources contributed to organizations of the system were allocated and utilized in a most cost-effective manner for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries.

403. The Committee noted the ongoing efforts made by ACC to improve its own functioning as well as that of its subsidiary machinery. The Committee looked forward to the outcome of those efforts. The Committee also recommended that ACC make the necessary arrangements to ensure the coherent and systematic implementation of its own recommendations.

404. The Committee underlined the importance of the decision of the General Assembly that the overview report of ACC should continue to be submitted to CPC and to the Economic and Social Council and subsequently made available to the General Assembly, together with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of those

bodies on the report in accordance with existing practice. In the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the report and the relevant conclusions and recommendations on it should be given proper attention and due consideration as the major report on the activities of the United Nations system.

3. Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

405. The Committee took note of the report of the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/4) and recommended the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the conclusions and recommendations contained in it.

406. The Committee reaffirmed the importance that it attached to the Joint Meetings as a unique opportunity for a dialogue between Member States and executive heads of organizations of the system.

407. The Committee noted with appreciation the improvements that were made in the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings, particularly in the choice of specific topics, the preparatory meetings held to achieve a better focus for the Joint Meetings and the adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

408. The Committee is of the view, however, that further progress should be made. It recommended that the Joint Meetings should be conducted in such a way as to allow participants to have as much opportunity as possible for an open dialogue and frank and extensive exchanges. The Joint Meetings should not consist simply of the reading of prepared statements.

409. The Committee agreed that the Joint Meetings should continue to be preceded by adequate preparatory meetings. An effort should be made to avoid scheduling meetings of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly concurrently with the Joint Meetings. Documents prepared for the Joint Meetings should be made available in a timely manner.

410. Executive heads and representatives of Member States at the highest possible level should make every effort to be present at the Joint Meetings.

411. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to convey its views to the executive heads of organizations of the system and to encourage their active participation in future Joint Meetings.

D. Proposed United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control

412. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 31 May, the Committee considered the United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control (E/1990/39). The plan was considered concurrently with programme 28, International drug control, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 28)).

Discussion

413. Some delegations were of the opinion that the plan of action represented a new tool reflecting present and future international co-operation in the field of drug abuse control and found that the plan provided a good overview of the activities currently being carried out in the United Nations system as well as those projected. Some delegations welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat but considered there was scope for a still more rigorous approach.

414. A number of delegations felt that the plan was a commendable effort but did not reflect the balance achieved in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, annex); nor did it adequately reflect all existing mandates or contain all the activities mandated in the Global Programme of Action. Among the activities mentioned by delegations were those dealing with alternative development schemes, including crop substitution and financing, the strengthening of law enforcement capabilities of transit States and assistance for the reduction of excess stocks of licit drugs.

415. Some delegations also felt that the system-wide action plan was not fully in keeping with the guidelines set out by the General Assembly in resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989, mainly in terms of time-limits and the specific objectives to be achieved by the bodies of the United Nations system.

416. Some delegations stressed that reference should be made in the programme to the overall co-ordinating role that ACC had to play in that area. Other delegations stressed that that co-ordination role should be exercised by the United Nations Office at Vienna.

417. Some delegations felt that any decision or recommendation regarding the plan could benefit from the contribution of the meetings of experts to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/141.

418. A number of delegations felt that the information provided on resource requirements was of a very general nature and should have been spelt out in greater detail. A more transparent presentation was desirable in order to illustrate better the distinction between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, both for the United Nations itself and for the other organizations of the system.

419. Some delegations considered that efforts should continue to define more precisely the responsibilities of the United Nations drug control units and the contributions of the specialized agencies to the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and that an inventory of complementary activities by Member States in fulfilment of the recommendations addressed to them by the General Assembly might provide a more comprehensive picture in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

420. The Committee took note of the system-wide action plan on drug abuse control, decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council and to call the attention of the Council to the need for a revised version fully incorporating all mandates

and activities included in the Global Programme of Action for timely submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

421. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General prepare a statement of programme budget implications for the implementation of all mandates and activities included in the Global Programme of Action, taking into consideration the discussion that took place at the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination under the present agenda item, for timely submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

422. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 11 May, the Committee considered the report of JIU selected by the Committee at its organizational session, entitled "Concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" (A/44/486), and the comments of the Secretary-General on it (A/44/486/Add.1).

Discussion

423. While some delegations noted that the report provided an interesting contribution to the ongoing discussion on the structure of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, it was also noted that some aspects and recommendations of the report had been overtaken by subsequent developments.

424. A number of delegations expressed support for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna as the centre for social development and humanitarian affairs. Other delegations expressed the view that that should not be done to the detriment of other departments.

425. Some delegations were of the view that further consideration should be given to the possibility of grouping in the same Secretariat units activities dealing with similar subjects, for example, those relating to energy and natural resources.

426. The view was expressed that the necessary restructuring of the social sector of the United Nations and the corresponding strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna, according to resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and the intentions of the Secretary-General expressed in document A/44/486/Add.1, should be carried out during the course of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee could accept the comments of the Secretary-General contained in document A/44/486/Add.1. Others did not share that view.

427. Some delegations expressed the view that the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988/77, had decided to receive directly the forward-looking thematic analyses that would replace the cross-organizational programme analyses, and considered that the Council at its summer session would define the exact procedures to be followed.

428. Other delegations reaffirmed the Committee's continuing mandate of assisting the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the co-ordination function. It was noted that the new thematic analysis was one of the co-ordination instruments. Those delegations therefore stressed the need for the Council to continue to benefit from the comments, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on various thematic analyses to facilitate its consideration of those analyses.

429. Some delegations proposed that one consolidated annual session of the Economic and Social Council be held in New York, prior to the General Assembly, to consider, in an integrated manner, all development issues of an economic and social nature.

430. Other delegations were of the view that, pending agreement on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, the existing practice of holding Economic and Social Council sessions should be maintained.

Conclusions and recommendations

431. The Committee, recalling its recommendation made at its twenty-ninth session with respect to a better means of considering the reports of the Unit, 5/ decided to select one report and to consider it earlier in the session. The Committee was also of the view that that arrangement could continue in the future.

432. The Committee took note with interest of the report of JIU and of the comments of the Secretary-General on it. It was also noted that the concluding report was the last in a series of seven reports prepared by JIU to review the extent to which resolution 32/197 had been implemented.

433. The Committee decided to transmit its observations to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration in the context of the continuing dialogue on the revitalization of the Council and on the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (resolution 44/103).

434. The Committee took note of recommendation 1, and recommended that the Economic and Social Council take action on it as appropriate. The Committee also noted that, subsequent to the issuance of the JIU report, the Council, in its resolution 1989/114 and decision 1990/205, had taken a number of further measures to improve its functioning.

435. With respect to recommendations 2 and 3, there was general support for full use of existing formal and informal co-ordination mechanisms.

436. With respect to recommendation 4, the Committee noted the comments of the Secretary-General concerning the structure of the Secretariat. In that context, the proposals, as appropriate, of the Secretary-General relating to the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as requested in resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, were awaited. Specifically, the Committee recognized the integrated approach to development and thus the need to retain a multidisciplinary research analysis capacity within the Secretariat as envisaged in resolution 32/197, and the need for a central statistical unit. The Committee, noting that the report omitted measures for decentralization aimed at strengthening the regional commissions in accordance with resolution 32/197, and bearing in mind resolution 44/103 of 11 December 1989, was of the view that the recommendations should also have referred to the strengthening of regional structures.

437. With respect to recommendation 5, the Committee acknowledged the importance of the functions of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and agreed with the view that efforts should be made to ensure that the Director-General should continue to carry out, under the authority of the Secretary-General, the responsibilities assigned to him by resolution 32/197.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

438. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-first session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-first session of the Committee shall be of four weeks' duration.

439. At its 51st meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for its thirty-first session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1990/L.4).

440. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for their review, the following provisional agenda for its thirty-first session, subject to those new agenda items or reports which might be approved at the Committee's resumed thirtieth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   Documentation

   Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (in fascicle form)

   (b) Programme performance of the United Nations;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the Organization (A/45/16, para. 341)

   (c) Statements on programme budget implications and procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/44/16, para. 284)

(d) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies of the Economic Commission for Africa (A/44/16, para. 294)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees (A/44/16, para. 318, E/AC.51/1989/6, para. 3, and General Assembly resolution 44/194, sect. IV, para. 1)

Triennial review of the programme on development issues and policies (A/39/38, para. 364, and A/44/16, para. 319)

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (A/43/16, paras. 89 and 90, E/AC.51/1989/6, para. 3, General Assembly resolution 44/194, sect. IV, para. 1, and E/AC.51/1990/L.3/Add.4, para. 2)

4. Co-ordination questions:

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1990

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

5. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

2/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

3/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16).

4/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), para. 294.

5/ Ibid., para. 372.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirtieth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (b) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (d) Evaluation;

   (e) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

5. Co-ordination questions:

   (a) Cross-organizational programme analysis;

   (b) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

   (c) Strengthening co-ordination in the United Nations system.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirtieth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirtieth session

A/45/6 Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Introduction

Annex to the introduction

Programme 1 Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

Programme 2 Political and Security Council affairs

Programme 3 Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

Programme 4 Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization

Programme 5 Question of Palestine

Programme 6 Elimination of apartheid

Programme 7 Disarmament

Programme 8 Peaceful uses of outer space

Programme 9 International law

Programme 10 Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Programme 11 Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

Programme 12 Global development issues and policies

Programme 13 International Trade

Programme 14 Development finance, resource flows and external debt

Programme 15 Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

Programme 16 Environment

Programme 17 Science and technology for development

Programme 18 Population

Programme 19 Natural resources

Programme 20 Energy

Programme 21	Public administration and finance
Programme 22	Human settlements
Programme 23	Transnational corporations
Programme 24	Statistics
Programme 25	Global social issues and policies
Programme 26	Integration of social groups
Programme 27	Advancement of women
Programme 28	International drug control
Programme 29	Crime prevention and criminal justice
Programme 30	Regional co-operation for development in Africa
Programme 31	Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific
Programme 32	Regional co-operation for development in Europe
Programme 33	Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Programme 34	Regional co-operation for development in western Asia
Programme 35	Promotion and protection of human rights
Programme 36	International protection of and assistance to refugees
Programme 37	Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes
Programme 38	Public information
Programme 39	Conference and library services
Programme 40	Administrative direction and management
Programme 41	Human resources management
Programme 42	Programme planning, budget and finance
Programme 43	General services
Programme 44	Services to the public
A/44/272	Report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget

A/44/486 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
A/45/204	Report of the Secretary-General on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989
A/45/226	Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213
A/45/279	Note by the Secretariat: consolidated summary of the comments and recommendations made by Member States and intergovernmental bodies since 1988 on the draft introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
E/1990/4	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees
E/1990/18 and Add.1	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989
E/1990/39 and Corr.1	United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control
E/AC.51/1990/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session
E/AC.51/1990/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements
E/AC.51/1990/3 and Corr.1	Follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme
E/AC.51/1990/4	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on science and technology
E/AC.51/1990/5	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: ECA
E/AC.51/1990/6	Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on industrial development
E/AC.51/1990/7	Note by the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the programme on the protection of and assistance to refugees

E/AC.51/1990/8	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis
E/AC.51/1990/INF/1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1990/L.1/ Rev.3	Draft programme of work
E/AC.51/1990/L.2/ Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session
E/AC.51/1990/L.3 and Add.1-53	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/1990/L.4	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee

ANNEX III

Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of the first part of its thirtieth session

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

1. At the first part of its thirtieth session, held in New York from 7 May to 11 June 1990, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) made several recommendations that would give rise to programme budget implications. In accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, those implications and the recommendations to which they relate are presented below.

I. SECTION 28 (ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT) OF THE PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

A. Programme planning, budgeting and monitoring

2. In paragraph 341 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report to its thirty-first session on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the Organization, which should take into account past and present recommendations and conclusions of the Committee, the pertinent regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, and the requirements of the programming and budgeting process contained in General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1983 and subsequent related resolutions.

3. The activity described in paragraph 2 above would fall under chapter 26, programme 3, subprogramme 4, of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991), as revised. a/

4. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendation of CPC, an additional output would be included under programme element 4.1, subprogramme 4, programme 3, of section 28B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to read as follows:

(ii) Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (first quarter, 1991).

B. Evaluation

5. In paragraph 358 of its report, the Committee recommended that it undertake the evaluation of the disarmament programme at its thirty-first session, in 1991, taking into account relevant conclusions and recommendations made at its twenty-ninth session, relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, as well as observations of the Secretary-General for the evaluation

of programmes in the political area contained in paragraphs 47 to 57 of his report (E/AC.51/1990/3 and Corr.1).

6. The activity described in paragraph 5 above falls under programme 4 of chapter 26 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991), as revised. b/

7. The output required to implement the above recommendation was originally included in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (see A/44/6/Rev.1, para. 28B.25, 1.2 (ii)). It has, however, subsequently been deleted (A/44/16/Add.1, para. 11 (a)), following the approval by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (resolution 44/194, sect. IV, para. 1) of the recommendation of the Committee at its twenty-ninth session, c/ that a final decision on the evaluation report on the disarmament programme be postponed.

8. Should, therefore, the General Assembly approve the recommendation discussed in paragraph 5, the output would be reinstated in programme element 1.2 of the single subprogramme comprising programme 4 of section 28B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as follows:

(viii) Report to the Committee on in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (first quarter, 1991).

9. The programme activities described in paragraphs 4 and 8 above would be carried out from the resources allocated to section 28 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

II. PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

10. In paragraph 32 of its report, the Committee decided to revert to the question of priority-setting among subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, particularly in the political sector, at its resumed thirtieth session on the basis of further information to be provided by the Secretary-General in the context of its consideration of the overall question of priority-setting.

11. The Secretary-General will submit to the resumed thirtieth session of the Committee a conference room paper containing, inter alia, the information described in paragraph 10 above.

12. In paragraph 146 (a) of its report, the Committee recommended the approval of programme 11 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 on the understanding that subprogramme 5 of programme 11 should be improved and broadened into a separate proposed programme for African economic recovery and development in conformity with the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning and that the proposed programme should be submitted to the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session.

13. The Secretary-General will submit to the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session a separate proposed programme for African economic recovery and development.

14. In section III.A of its report, the Committee recommended approval of the individual programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to a number of modifications. Should the General Assembly approve those

recommendations, the modifications will be reflected in the final printed text of the plan (A/45/6/Rev.1).

III. CO-ORDINATION

15. In paragraph 146 (b) of its report, the Committee recommended the approval of programme 11 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 on the further understanding (see also para. 12 above) that the Secretary-General, as chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), would prepare a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, taking into account the development of the situation, and submit it to the Committee at its thirty-second session, in 1992.

16. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendation stated in paragraph 15 above, the required preparatory activities during the current biennium would be undertaken within the framework of section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) and other sections as appropriate; the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would reflect the addition of the requested output.

17. In paragraph 421 of its report, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General prepare a statement of programme budget implications for the implementation of all mandates and activities included in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (resolution S-17/2, annex), taking into consideration the discussion that took place at CPC under the agenda item on the proposed United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control, for submission to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

18. The Secretary-General will submit a statement to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session that will cover the activities to be undertaken by the United Nations.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/43/6), paras. 26.53-26.58.

b/ Ibid., paras. 26.59-26.67.

c/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), para. 305.

Part Two

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTIETH SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters
from 17 to 22 September 1990

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form on 27 September 1990 under the symbol A/45/16 (Part II).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination held its resumed thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 22 September 1990. It held eight meetings (60th to 67th meetings) and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the resumed thirtieth session is reproduced in annex I.

B. Attendance

3. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Benin
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
India
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Pakistan
Poland
Romania
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Brazil
Costa Rica
Egypt
Finland
Hungary
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Tunisia

5. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization

6. Also present at the session were the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budgeting and Finance, Controller, and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

C. Documentation

7. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session is contained in annex II.

D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

8. At its 67th meeting, on 22 September, the Committee adopted the draft report on its resumed thirtieth session (E/AC.26/1990/L.7 and Add.1-5) as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. Programme 45. African economic recovery, development and transformation

9. At its 62nd and 63rd meetings, on 18 and 19 September, the Committee considered the proposed programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, entitled "African economic recovery, development and transformation".

Discussion

10. Several delegations welcomed the importance that the Secretary-General attached to the economic development of Africa. They urged the international community to translate its commitment into concrete actions to assist those countries, including financial resources. It was emphasized that co-ordination should be enhanced in order to ensure the effective implementation by the organizations of the system of intergovernmental decisions for African recovery and development. The proposed system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development could serve as a framework for that purpose. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) would have a leading role to play in the implementation of the programme.

11. Several delegations reaffirmed the priority assigned by the General Assembly to Africa and stressed that adequate resources should be provided to ensure full and effective implementation of the programme commensurate to its priority designation.

12. Some delegations felt that the General Assembly resolutions, except decision 44/411, cited in the subprogramme as legislative authority did not have direct relevance to the subprogramme. Other delegations did not share that view.

General recommendations

13. The Committee expressed general satisfaction with the substance and orientation of the programme, which had been prepared taking into account the comments made by the Committee at the first part of its current session. It felt that there should be further refinement of the programmatic content of the programme in the light of subsequent relevant decisions that might be taken by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as at the final review and evaluation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the Assembly during its forty-sixth session.

14. The Committee recommended that emphasis should be put on the mobilization of resources.

15. The methodology and the format to be used in the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development should be similar to the one used for the preparation of the plan on drug abuse control, taking also

into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 146 of the Committee's report on the first part of its thirtieth session.

16. The Secretary-General should provide all the necessary support for the implementation of the Programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee recommended approval of programme 45 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) The title of the programme should be changed to read "Africa: Critical economic situation, recovery and development";

(b) The title of subprogramme 1 should be changed to read "Mobilization of resources", and the co-ordination aspects of the subprogramme should be incorporated into section 2, "Overall strategy and co-ordination";

(c) The title of subprogramme 2 should be changed to read "Monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects";

(d) The wording of paragraph 45.12 (b) should be changed to read "Monitoring, assessing and following up the evolution of African economic and social development with a view to assisting African countries, at the request of individual Governments, to identify and promote policies and activities ..." (rest of the paragraph unchanged);

(e) Specific activities assigned in the programme should be rearranged under the new subprogramme headings, in particular:

(i) Paragraphs 45.16 to 45.18 should be placed in section 2, Overall strategy and co-ordination;

(ii) Subparagraphs 45.20 (a) (i) and (iii) should be put under subprogramme 3, The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa;

(iii) Activities listed in subparagraphs 45.28 (c) and (d) should be clearly linked to the mobilization of resources under subprogramme 1;

(f) Subparagraph 45.20 (b) should be incorporated in section 2, Overall strategy and co-ordination;

(g) In subparagraph 45.20 (d) delete "including the preparation of documentation";

(h) In subparagraph 45.20 (a) (ii) replace "Policy measures" with "Concrete actions";

(i) In subparagraph 45.28 (c) replace "Policy and decision makers" with "donors";

(j) In subparagraph 45.28 (d) replace "enlist the support of these target groups" with "mobilize the necessary resources";

(k) The title of subprogramme 3 should read "The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa";

(l) Insert a new subparagraph 45.7 (e) to read:

"Supporting African countries in their efforts to enhance their own endogenous capacity with a view to achieving sustained growth and development by, inter alia, providing, at the request of individual Governments, advice on appropriate economic policy reforms";

(m) Replace subparagraph 45.20 (e) (ii) with:

"To promote international efforts to improve the functioning of commodity markets with a view to achieving commodity price stabilization and predictability as well as assured compensatory arrangements and related programmes".

2. Programme 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

18. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee was informed orally of the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its forty-sixth session, held from 4 to 13 June 1990, on the priority-setting for programme 31, Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific, (A/45/6 (Prog. 31)).

Conclusions and recommendations

19. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should give appropriate consideration to the question of priority-setting among subprogrammes when it reviewed programme 31 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 at its forty-fifth session.

B. Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

21. At its 60th to 63rd meetings, on 17 to 19 September, the Committee considered the proposed programme budget outline submitted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/45/369) in accordance with paragraph 1 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

22. The Committee recalled that, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, and acting as the subsidiary organ of the Assembly, it would consider the outline of the programme budget and submit through the Fifth Committee its conclusions and recommendations. It also recalled that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would consider the outline in accordance

with its terms of reference and submit its recommendations to the Assembly. It further recalled that on the basis of the decisions by the Assembly on the proposed outline for the programme budget 1992-1993, the Secretary-General would prepare his proposed programme budget for the following biennium.

23. The Committee further recalled that the outline of the forthcoming programme budget was an integral part of the process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in serving the international community.

24. The Committee examined the following four aspects of the proposed programme budget outline.

(a) Preliminary estimates of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium

25. The Committee noted the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 6 of his report.

26. The Committee recommends, in accordance with its mandate, that the preliminary estimate of resources presented by the Secretary-General constitute the basis for a decision by the General Assembly, taking into account the following:

(a) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this subject, in accordance with its mandate as stated in resolution 41/213;

(b) The estimate should be considered preliminary and take into account, in the light of paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the implications of mandates that might be adopted by the General Assembly in 1990;

(c) The estimate should be adequate for the implementation of mandated activities of the Organization to be programmed for the next biennium within the framework of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997; the Committee stresses in this regard the recommendations it made on the proposed medium-term plan at both its spring and resumed sessions of 1990;

(d) The estimate should be seen in the perspective of providing the Organization with enough flexibility to undertake efficiently the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly through new and changing mandates;

(e) The estimate is of a global nature; in this regard, the Committee notes that the breakdown of estimates for 1992-1993 by major programme of the proposed medium-term plan given in the report of the Secretary-General is only illustrative;

(f) The estimate of resources is presented at 1990-1991 prices and does not include those type of expenditures mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213;

(g) The outline of the proposed programme budget should be built on the premise that resolution 41/213 would be fully implemented and that the approved programmes contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 would be carried in 1992-1993 against a programme budget whose financing would be strictly observed once it had been approved and appropriated.

(b) Priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature

27. The Committee noted the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature in response to the request made by the General Assembly in subparagraph 1 (b) of annex I to resolution 41/213.

28. The Committee also noted that the Secretary-General referred in paragraphs 12 and 13 of his report to the priorities expressed in the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

29. The Committee further noted that, in relation with the outline, the introduction to the medium-term plan had indicated priorities on a broader basis. In that regard the Committee recalled that the programme budget was elaborated in the framework of the medium-term plan.

30. The Committee proposes to the General Assembly that it examine priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature, as suggested in the introduction to the medium-term plan and the outline, taking account of the views expressed by the competent intergovernmental and expert bodies. Particular attention should be paid to the following: maintenance of international peace and security; economic development of developing countries; the economic recovery and development of Africa; the environment; and international drug control.

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget

31. The Committee noted that the proposed real growth, compared with the previous budget, was indicated at zero per cent.

32. The Committee also noted that that real growth had been calculated on the basis of the existing methodology, also used for the presentation of the programme budget. Owing to the shortcomings of the current methodology, the Committee was not in a position to assess precisely the impact of the proposed rate of real growth on mandated programmes of the Organization. The Committee recommends that this methodology, as well as the overall methodology for the preparation of the outline, including the treatment of non-recurrent expenditures and the issue of comparability with programme budgets, be studied further by the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly. The Committee, while recognizing the difficulties involved in modifying the current methodology for the preparation of the outline and the programme budget, stresses the need for greater transparency.

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources

33. The Committee, having noted paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report, stressed the importance of the contingency fund as an essential aspect of the new budgetary process.

34. The Committee further stressed that the size of the contingency fund, expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources, was to be in addition

to the proposed preliminary estimate of the Secretary-General adjusted in the light of subparagraphs (ii) and (vi) of paragraph 26 above, and taking into account the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

35. The Committee noted that the General Assembly would at its forty-fifty session take decisions on the use of the contingency fund for the biennium 1990-1991.

36. The Committee further noted that, in accordance with its resolution 44/200 B of 21 December 1989, the General Assembly would review the question of the size and mode of operation of the contingency fund at its forty-sixth session.

37. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider the question of the contingency fund in the light of the evolving situation, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and all relevant decisions.

C. Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

1. Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functions and administrative support of the departments having mandates relating to global social development issues

38. At its 64th meeting, on 19 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functions and administrative support of the departments having mandates relating to global social development issues (A/C.5/45/4).

Discussion

39. Several delegations expressed the view that the issue under consideration, including all aspects of strengthening the United Nations Office at Vienna, required a global conceptual approach, bearing in mind, in particular, a division of current and emerging activities of the United Nations among Headquarters, Geneva and Vienna and the availability of premises in the Vienna International Centre.

Conclusion

40. In the light of the views expressed during the discussion, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

2. Revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27 and 31 and income section 1

41. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee considered the question of revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27 and 31 and income section 1.

Discussion

42. While expressing their disappointment that the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27 and 31 and income section 1 was not available in all the official languages and could not, therefore, be considered by the Committee, a number of delegations made informal preliminary comments on the Secretary-General's proposals.

43. Other delegations declared that they were unable to make comments on this item in the absence of the document in all official languages.

44. A number of delegations supported the proposal to continue certain activities related to Namibia until their completion. They also welcomed the proposal to redeploy resources to priority activities related to apartheid and the proposed redeployment of resources for modernization of facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa. They noted, however, that no proposals were made with respect to some of the resources released as a result of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the programme on Namibia, and expressed the view that those resources should be redeployed to high-priority activities, particularly those relating to Africa. Some delegations also noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the Centre Against Apartheid did not reflect fully the views expressed by those delegations during the General Assembly's consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 at its forty-fourth session.

Conclusions and recommendations

45. The Committee noted with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject had not been available for its consideration. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to ensure that such a situation should not set a precedent for the future. The Committee recommended that the report be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, for its consideration and appropriate action.

Review of the translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa

46. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee considered the question of translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

47. The Committee noted with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject had not been available for its consideration. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to ensure that such a situation should not set a precedent for the future. The Committee recommended that the report be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session for its consideration and appropriate action.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the resumed thirtieth session of the Committee

1. Organization of work.

2. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (e) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

3. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session

A/44/272	Report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget
A/45/6 (Prog. 45)	Proposed programme for African economic recovery, development and transformation
A/45/369	Report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993
A/C.5/45/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates for sections 3, 13, 27, 31 and income section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991
A/C.5/45/4	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues and proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna
E/AC.51/1990/L.5	Programme of work
E/AC.51/1990/L.6	Status of documentation
E/AC.51/1990/L.7 and Add.1-5	Draft report of the Committee on its resumed thirtieth session

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